

ESCAPING from the
DRAGON'S
JAWS

SHAUNA MANFREDINE



Escaping from the Dragon's Jaws
by Shauna Manfredine

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DEDICATION:

This book is lovingly dedicated to my dear family and friends who prayed for me through this experience. I owe much to the Heavenly Father, Who abundantly answered these prayers! I would like to extend a special note of heartfelt appreciation to the following dear ones, who stood in the gap and interceded for my deliverance:

Mark Manfredine, my husband, who prayed for me night and day.

Lou and Danette Davis, my praying parents, who also prayed round the clock for my deliverance.

Christopher and Katrina, my precious children, who may have been hurt more than anyone else in this experience.

Brenda and Denny Kaneshiro, Skip and Debbie Grant, Corinne Jeske and my other friends and family who interceded for me.

May you be abundantly blessed for the huge blessing you have been to me in the darkest hours of my life.

APPRECIATION:

A special note of gratitude to Judy Antell who graciously and professionally edited this book.

PREFACE

Writing this story is one of the hardest things I have ever done. It is a story I never intended to fully tell. My plan to keep it to myself was defensive. I was protecting myself from having to “rehash” powerful or painful memories. I was also guarding the reputations of those involved. And honestly, my silence was even accommodating the sensitivities of my fellow Christians, most of whom refuse to believe that committed followers of Messiah can be demonized, attacked, or deceived, to the degree which I was.

This belief is often voiced in a question, “Can the devil really get someone who prays, loves the Heavenly Father, and desires to serve Him wholeheartedly?” The very idea breeds deep fear in even the most

Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.

Isaiah 49:24-25

stalwart of souls. For it leads us to worry that if the devil can get the truly committed Christians, no one is safe!

Now let me say up front that, of course, our Heavenly King is stronger than the devil!

And there is no question that He can set the captives free (Isaiah 49:24-25). The truth

of this promise is amply demonstrated in this book. But because many Christians have serious misconceptions about witchcraft, it is very possible, even commonplace for them to become the deceived “prey of the terrible.”

The fact that such deception is all too common among Christians was made clear to me, in part, by Rebecca Brown (author of *Becoming a Vessel of Honor* and *He Came to Set the Captives Free*). Rebecca informed me that her office has received numerous calls from distressed souls seeking help in the area of spiritual warfare and witchcraft. I was alarmed to learn of many committed Christians who unwittingly have become involved in what I call “Christianized” witchcraft, because they did not recognize it for what it was.

Compelled that my reasons for silence were outweighed by the “greater good” of warning my fellow believers, I have prayerfully decided to not only tell my story, but to write it for those beyond my personal sphere of influence. I will consider it well worth the effort, pain, and expense of sharing my story if so doing will help even one disciple of Christ avoid the pit which nearly destroyed me. We cannot afford to be “ignorant of the devil’s devices” or he will “gain the advantage” over us, 2 Corinthians 2:11.

May you be enlightened, spiritually strengthened and ultimately blessed as you read

this book. And may the Heavenly Father receive all the glory! Truly He loves His children! I am a living witness to the testimony that God’s Hand is not shortened that it cannot save; nor is His Ear heavy that He cannot hear our cries.

In fact, before I even knew to call upon Him, He had already answered (Isaiah 59:1 and 65:24).

It should be stated, up front, that this book is written in a completely blunt and honest manner. The details given are exactly as I remember them, recorded faithfully, with no regard for my personal reputation. The pursuit of truth and strengthening the Body of Christ is far more important than having people think well of me.

My commitment to truth, demonstrated in my complete lack of regard for “keeping up appearances,” should be readily apparent in these pages. For I am sharing the facts of my testimony and the story of

Behold, the Lord’s Hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His Ear heavy, that it cannot hear,

Isaiah 59:1

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear,

Isaiah 65:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect,

Matthew 24:24.

False christs and false prophets will appear, and they will offer great signs and wonders in order to deceive, if possible, even those whom God has chosen,

Matthew 24:24 (CEB)

God's Deliverance in my life, without hiding details that make me very vulnerable and open to criticism. These facts should be pointed out, because the enemy will want to prejudice you against the testimony shared in this book.

In order to keep Christians vulnerable to "Christianized" witchcraft, the enemy has fed God's people a deep lie: "the devil can't 'get' fully committed Christians. Only people who are hypocrites can be spiritu-

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,

Ephesians 6:12

ally taken down by his deceptions." But, this belief goes against Scripture, thus exposing it as a demonic deception. Consider the Saviour's warning about how overmastering would be the devil's deception—Matthew 24:24. Deception of this magnitude *did* overtake me, and it wasn't due to a lack of com-

mitment to God. I became deceived because I was expecting witchcraft to look like chicken bones, tarot cards and Ouija boards—but it came to me in deceptive ways which appeared "righteous" at the time.

Next, I'd like to make a note about the names used in this story. While there is no attempt to preserve my personal reputation, it is important to protect the names of the other individuals involved. For this reason, the names of the individuals involved in this story (other than the names of my family) have all been changed.

The last point I wish to make, in this introduction, is regarding "Adrienne," herself. Adrienne (not her real name, of course) is a soul for whom Christ died. Nowhere in this book, or in my recollections of these experiences, do I hate her, nor am I bitter towards her for what took place. As the Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12, our enemy is never human—we are in a fight against Satan and his demons. This is why it is so vitally important that we learn to discern the true enemy, recognize his purposes, and become equipped to effectively do battle with the forces of spiritual darkness—in the Power of God and with His Heavenly Weapons.



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CHAPTER ONE

Meeting the Devil in the Strangest of Places

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

1 Peter 5:8

Where would you most expect to encounter the devil? If someone were to ask you to pinpoint the most likely location for a spiritual warfare confrontation with the forces of Hell, where would it be? Of all the dark and seedy dives most likely coming to your mind just now, does a Christian church or fellowship group even make the list? Yet the enemy of souls does come after the spiritual “flock” of believers from *within*. This is why the apostle Peter warned us to be sober and vigilant, because our adversary the devil is like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8).

Like ill-prepared hens when a fox gets inside the hen house, many times we are blind-sided both by the ferocity of the devil’s attack and by the unexpectedness of it being launched from within “God’s House.” But the same devil, who appeared to Eve in perfect Eden, comes against Christians most effectively by infiltrating their sanctified venues.

I didn’t realize this several years ago. I had bought into the commonly held myth that demons stayed in night clubs, bars, and other obvious “hot beds” of sinfulness. I learned the hard way that this is a myth which leaves Christians ill-prepared for the day Hell walks through the

door. For me Hell arrived unexpectedly, in the form of a fiftiesh woman, whose unassuming appearance and professed desire for God were the perfect “Trojan Horse” through which to infiltrate my life. I will call her Adrienne.

I first met Adrienne on a clear, crisp, October day, in 2010. The sun was streaming through the windows of the rented hall and our annual, fall retreat was just beginning. As is usual for such an event, my husband and I were caught up in a flurry of activity. We were not only keynote speakers at this retreat, we were also the hosts.

Being in spiritual warfare ministry, Mark and I already had private prayer sessions scheduled with several people who were attending the retreat. We fairly flew from one appointment to the next, artfully woven between sermons to preach, the children’s program to run, music to provide, and DVD’s to record and produce.

Like a colorful leaf, blown in by the wind, Adrienne appeared in the doorway of the meeting hall. She was slightly above average in height with shoulder-length auburn hair, lightened at the tips. Although a newcomer, Adrienne moved into the room of people with practiced ease. She had a quick smile, a ready laugh, and a steady, penetrating gaze.

Caught up amidst the excitement and bustle of the event, I sailed past her with little more than a welcoming smile. I certainly could not foresee that this woman would deeply change my life and ministry over the next two years. Nor could I have known how close to total destruction the enemy would use her to bring us.

Towards the end of this eight-day retreat, there were ten baptisms in the nearby river as people consecrated or recommitted their lives to God. Adrienne was one of the ten. In our private, pre-baptismal conference time with her, Mark and I learned that Adrienne had come from a dark and worldly past. But she assured us that she had left the life of drugs, partying, and witchcraft behind. When she arrived at the camp-meeting, she was already a baptized “Christian” and was a member of a conservative Christian denomination. But she sought re-baptism.

Rarely had a baptismal candidate seemed more “gung-ho” for God than was Adrienne. She loved singing, although her voice was gravelly, having been damaged by poor health. She was eager to attend every meeting, group prayer session, and discussion about Scripture.



How to discern the presence of spirits:

Christian churches and homes are the places where we are most likely to be attacked by the enemy. This is because God’s people are the greatest threats to the forces of darkness. There is no physical place where the Christian is impervious to the devouring attempts of the enemy. This is why Scripture warns us to always be alert and wary (1 Peter 5:8-9).

People were designed by God to be spiritual temples. A temple is the “house” which a spirit inhabits. God intends for us to be spiritually inhabited by the Holy Spirit, of course. But, if we do not choose for the Spirit of God to reign in our soul-temples, demonic spirits will inhabit the soul in varying degrees. Never is a human soul-temple empty. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 6:16)

We may discern the spirits at work in a person’s life or in a place by their fruits, not by the claims of the person or place in which we encounter them (Matthew 7:20).

When the Holy Spirit is at work in a person’s life, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit will be evident in the attitudes and behaviors of the individual. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23).

Demonic spirits may even temporarily reign in the soul-temple of a Christian. Consider the example of the apostle Peter. Peter was a good guy—and was obviously a true follower of Christ—yet there was a moment when he must have let “self” take over.



How to discern... continued...

We know this because Jesus spoke directly to the evil spirit, which was speaking out of Peter's mouth (Matthew 16:21-23). This is a strong warning to us all.



Adrianne's apparent devotion did not go unnoticed among our local Bible Fellowship group. The ladies of our group quickly took her under their wings. Food was provided to meet her special dietary needs. Housing was offered, for she had traveled many miles to join us. And most importantly, love was supplied to Adrianne.

Indeed it was our love for which she seemed most hungry. Often, I would notice her sitting next to my lady friends, cuddled up against them like a child snuggles against her mother. On one occasion, my then ten-year-old daughter, Katrina, was snuggled against me listening to the sermon, while Adrianne was sitting in the meeting similarly nestled under my friend Elizabeth's arm.

Adrianne didn't try to sit so closely with me, as she did with my friends, Elizabeth and Lynette. She seemed instantly aware of their deeper nurturing capacity and publicly soaked up their love in a way that most observers found both odd and natural at the same time.

When Elizabeth, Lynette and I quietly discussed her unusual behavior in the kitchen later, we mutually concluded that Adrianne merely needed lots of love. None of us believed her to be "hitting on us", nor did we perceive anything threatening about what we characterized as her "love-starved" behavior.

One thing which really stands out in my mind about my first memories of Adrianne was her eyes. She had almost yellowish-green eyes. But it wasn't the color which was most unusual. When I looked into her eyes in casual conversation, many times there were demonic presences looking back at me. My friends Elizabeth and Lynette noted this as well. We

responded with many quiet prayer sessions in the meeting hall kitchen interceding for Adrienne’s full deliverance.

After her baptism, Mark and I and our friends from our local Bible study Fellowship Group could clearly see that the battle in Adrienne’s soul was far from over. She was fresh from the world with the habits of speech and ways of darkness still upon her. Clearly, she had much growing to do. Yet, we agreed to love her, minister to her, and continue to pray for her expecting she would continue to “grow in Christ”. Where Adrienne was concerned, we believed that as the spiritual layers of her soul were peeled back by the Holy Spirit all unknown bondage points would later be revealed. So even though we could still recognize traces of darkness upon her, after her re-baptism, we were comforted in the belief that Adrienne was living up to all the light she had, and would continue to do so, under the Father’s capable leading.

If only we could have seen then what we see now, the terrifying and soul-threatening parts of this story might have been completely avoided. But at the time, we only saw Adrienne as a wounded victim who we believed was fully repentant for her dark past.

Rather than the weak and needy lamb she appeared to be, Adrienne was truly a cunning wolf. For underneath the “non-threatening” costume of this “weak” and “pitiable” “lamb” lurked countless hosts of darkness. Much later, we would learn that Adrienne was a practicing witch, who had come to us with the hellish assignment to weaken and destroy our spiritual family. As will clearly be revealed in the pages of this book, Hell itself had walked into our congregation in the form of Adrienne. Truly, we did meet the devil in the strangest of places—and in the most unexpected of packages.

Over the course of the eight-day retreat, Adrienne seemed to immensely enjoy the meetings, music, fellowship, and food. For her, there seemed to be only one shadow over that happy gathering. Among the men attending the retreat was one who also had a past in the occult. But, like Adrienne, he claimed to have put his past behind him in his new-found walk with Christ. About halfway through the campmeeting, Adrienne pulled me aside to warn me of the demonic danger which she

perceived in this man and to ask me for special prayer.

“I hate to bother you because I know you’re busy,” Adrienne spoke with obvious distress, “but, I really need some prayer. I am under attack and my hand is getting dark.”

Genuine concern showed in my expression as I quickly ushered Adrienne to a more private place to talk. “I’m glad to pray with you, but what do you mean?”

“Years ago, I was at a ceremony with a warlock. I didn’t want to be there and I’ve repented for it. But, at that ceremony, he put some cursed stones into my hands. I felt the darkness creeping up my hands then. Over the years, I’ve been able to tell if something is dark (demonic) by touching it. If it’s dark, I can feel the darkness creeping up my hand and into my arm. My hand feels kind of cold, numb, and heavy.”

“And that’s happening to you now?”

“Yes. Will you pray for me?”

“Of course! But, what could you touch *here* that would cause such a thing? This is an *anointed* building!”

“I call Heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live,”

Deuteronomy 30:19

“...Choose you this day whom ye will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD,”

Joshua 24:15

Mark and I have long had the policy of praying over and anointing any building we rent for holding meetings. Prior to the start of this retreat, we had joined with several of our local Bible Fellowship members to pray over and anoint the meeting hall and grounds. I truly believed that Satan couldn’t come into a Christian congregation like ours. I, too, had bought into the common myth that you

won't meet the devil in a Christian venue. But remember, Satan appeared to Eve in holy Eden. My wrong belief set me up for deception.

Adrienne paused, tears forming in her eyes, "I met this guy. He introduced himself to me and shook my hand. There's something very wrong about him. I didn't want to shake his hand, but I couldn't avoid it without being rude. I felt in him the same kinds of things that I had felt in the warlock at that ceremony."

By now I was truly concerned. Adrienne's gaze was almost accusing as she echoed and reinforced the myth which I also had believed, "I didn't expect this to happen to me *here*. I came here to be with *God's* people. This is supposed to be a *safe* place. I really need help because the demons from him are creeping up my hand." She held out the offending hand to me, contorted and claw-like. "I've heard that you have a spiritual warfare ministry. You can pray for me, can't you?" she pleaded, her eyes dark with apparent fear.

In the urgency of the moment, I moved quickly. "There's nothing special about my prayers, Adrienne, but I'll be glad to pray with you," I smiled reassuringly. "The devil can't dish out anything too big for God's Power."

With that, I took her afflicted hand in one of my own, lifted my free hand in supplication, and cried out to our Heavenly Father for her deliverance. I then bound and rebuked the spirits attacking Adrienne, commanding them to leave her in the Saviour's Name and Blood.

Obviously, as one will quickly discern from this story, the spirits didn't leave Adrienne that day. One may wonder how it is possible for God's prayer warriors to command the spirits to leave, in the Saviour's Name and Blood, and yet the demons still remain. This can only happen if the prayer recipient really wants the spirits to remain, which are infesting them. Adrienne, being a witch, enjoyed the "power" of darkness. As I later learned, she was only pretending to want deliverance in order to better deceive me.

Since this experience with Adrienne, my husband and I have encountered several people who were demonically possessed and "liked it".

They came for prayer for “deliverance” from the uncomfortable symptoms of demonic possession or oppression, while not wanting to give up the “power” or supernatural “benefits” which came with it. In such cases, God is a Gentleman. He does not free a soul who does not truly desire freedom. Rather, God honors our choices for Heaven or Hell (Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15). This is the whole point for which God gave us free wills.

After the prayer, Adrienne seemed to improve immediately. I praised the Heavenly Father for “routing the enemy’s advances”, and we parted company as I rushed off to my next pressing engagement.

At this point in my experience with her, Adrienne was barely a blip on my mental-awareness radar. I saw her as a soul with great need and tremendous spiritual bondage. But she was a person for whom Christ had died and was brought to us for help. To me she was a “ministry project”—one face amidst a sea of needy people in the world. How dramatically that perception was to be changed! In a little over a year from that first meeting, our roles would almost completely reverse. I would be the “ministry recipient” and she the “minister”.

I also had no inkling that Adrienne was to become my daily prayer partner, my “best friend”, and my closest confidant. I would never have believed that my fellowship with Adrienne might produce such deep deception as for me to engage in “Christianized” witchcraft practices. Nor could I imagine that I would fall so far from God as to nearly leave my husband, family, and ministry; or that I would fall prey to an emotional affair and ultimately swap Christ for a demonic spirit guide!

I was about to be chewed up and swallowed by the dragon of Revelation 12! I would soon be trapped in the devil’s “belly” with the digestive juices of Hell covering me from head to toe. But the scariest part of it all is that, throughout the entire experience, I truly believed I was reaching higher ground in my walk with God!

This is the story of how even a Christian may be caught in the Dragon’s Jaws...





Warning! Even sincere, committed Christians can be deceived and entrapped in spiritual bondage:

This is especially true if we are ignorant of the devil's devices, tactics, weapons, and activities against us.

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices,” 2 Corinthians 2:11.

Christians need the gift of spiritual discernment. We cannot see the wind, but we can see the leaves moving in the trees, allowing us to observe the presence of the wind. In the same way, we cannot see the spirits at work in a life or place. But we can observe the presence of evil spirits by observing their evil fruits—and by the lack of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law,” Galatians 5:22–23.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them,” Matthew 7:15–20.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) is a complete list of the attitudes and attributes of the Holy Spirit in the life. When we are unsure what spirits are at work in a life or home,



Warning!... continued...

we can test the spirits by seeing how they measure up to this “Fruit Test”. Fruits which fail the Fruit Test are called “Works of Darkness”. These attitudes and behaviors can only manifest in our lives and homes when darkness is allowed to have ground.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world,” 1 John 4:1.



PERSONAL WARFARE REALITY CHECK: DISCERNING THE SPIRITS IN YOUR LIFE/HOME

(Applicable answers are shown on the bottom of page 19.)

1) Discerning the presence of enemy spirits is the first step in responding to the situation in spiritually effective ways. We test the spirits (1 John 4:1) by their fruits. How well can you recognize the presence of enemy spirits? **Identify the “fruits” of the spirits of darkness in the table below.** *(Please check all that apply) —for a hint, use Galatians 5:19–23:*

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anger | <input type="checkbox"/> Goodness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace | <input type="checkbox"/> Panic attacks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear | <input type="checkbox"/> Sobriety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apathy | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joy | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppression |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hate | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-suffering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bitterness | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selfishness | <input type="checkbox"/> Gossip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lust | <input type="checkbox"/> Criticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentleness | <input type="checkbox"/> Meekness |



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

4) On the lines below, list the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit, found in Galatians 5:22–23. Memorize this list and begin using these attributes of the Holy Spirit to do the Fruit Test on every spirit active in your own life throughout the day. Prayerfully ask, “Are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit manifesting in my attitudes and actions right now?” If the answer is “No”, confess this, repent, and re-submit your life to God. Ask God to bless you by putting these beautiful Fruits in your life.

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By implementing the Fruit Test in your life, you have taken the first step to gaining spiritual eyesight! Being able to really see what is going on in the Spirit Realm is vital to effective Spiritual Warfare. As we have discussed in this chapter, spiritual sight only comes by discerning the fruits of the Spirits.



Personal Warfare Reality Check (Chapter 1) Answers:

1) The Fruits of Darkness are the opposite of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Fruits of Darkness are: Anger (opposite of Love), Fear (opposite of Peace), Apathy (opposite of Love), Hate (opposite of Love), Bitterness (opposite of Long-suffering), Selfishness (opposite of Meekness), Lust (opposite of Self-control), Panic attacks (opposite of Peace), Depression (opposite of Joy), Oppression (opposite of Faith), Gossip (opposite of Self-control), and Criticism (opposite of Meekness).

2) The most effective way to determine which spirits are at work in a life or home is to use the Fruit Test—test the attitudes and behaviors by the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.



CHAPTER TWO

Greeting Cards and Gift Baskets

A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 22:3

An ancient city's first line of protection and defense against enemy invasion was its walls. Imagine for just a moment that one day, amidst the hustle and bustle of life in ancient times, the watchmen on the walls shouted the warning and trumpeted the alarm. An army had been spotted, approaching the city with probable hostile intent!

As the armed hoard quickly surrounded the city on all sides, set up battering rams, and erected catapults to breach the city's gates and walls; fears of their malicious intent were confirmed. In such a situation, what should be the appropriate response of the threatened city? Certainly, the best placement and quick deployment of defending troops would be most critical. For if the besieged city is to have any hope of surviving the onslaught, an effective defense must be put into action immediately.

But what would the city's chances be if the watchmen called hospitality services instead of rousing the army? What would happen if, while the invaders prepared to smash through the city's main gate, out from a rear portal came the town welcoming committed bearing greeting

cards and gift baskets. Can you picture it?

The idea of sending greeting cards and gift baskets to the invaders boggles the mind! Such an inappropriate response to an enemy invasion is beyond ludicrous. It's insane! The city would most certainly be doomed! And the only effect the foolishly hospitable hosts might have upon their enemies is that now the warlords have goodies to munch while hefting their battering rams.

A besieged city would never have been so unwise as to respond to an invasion in such a clueless manner. Yet we do it spiritually all the time! The forces of darkness seek to destroy our homes and families in all-out, full-scale assaults. The intent of these hellish invaders is far darker and more dangerous than a mortal army working to overpower a physical city. Yet, so often, we dimly perceive the threat and fail to respond appropriately. Often this is because we are held back by our misconstrued belief that Christians should “lovingly” tolerate anything—even evil!

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 3:17–18

Physical protection is far less important than spiritual! When the forces of Hell walk through the front door in the skin of an infiltrating person—a predatory wolf, who may be wearing “sheep’s” clothing—the right response is effective spiritual warfare, not greeting cards and gift baskets!

So often, the enemy of souls is able to invade and destroy our homes and families because we do not appropriately respond to the early warnings that demonic troops are advancing upon us. Sometimes we do not perceive that we are under attack at all. But whether we are blind to the early warning signs of a hellish attack, or whether we respond

inappropriately to that attack, either way it is impossible to mount a godly defense. To be under attack, yet ineffective in spiritual warfare against it is basically handing the devil the victory over us, our families, and our homes.

So, how can we respond appropriately and effectively to the attacks of the enemy? The first step is to discern the attack for what it really is. Being spiritually able to see—perceiving what is going on in the spiritual realm—is the first and foremost ability which Christians must have. For without it, we will be as overrun as the city in our analogy. This is why our loving Heavenly Father invites us to seek His spiritual eyesalve (Revelation 3:17–18).

Because my family and I spiritually failed to recognize and rightly respond to the early warnings of advancing darkness, the onslaught of hell was successful, nearly destroying us spiritually, emotionally, financially, and even physically. In fact, though we have recovered and are thriving again, we have unnecessary scars—many of which will never be fully removed this side of Glory.

Recognizing the early warnings of Satan’s attacks is vitally important. For this reason, in this chapter I will share the signs which we missed at the time, and carefully identify Hell’s pattern in the early stages of an

all-out attack. In this way, it is my prayer that you and your family will be protected from a similar onslaught as that which nearly destroyed us.

As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as befits good trustees of God’s many-sided Grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor],

1 Peter 4:10 (AMP)

First, in the early stages of the onslaught against our home, darkness used our own misconceptions against us. Christians are supposed to be loving. We are supposed to demonstrate

care and kindness towards those in need. These are good and godly virtues. But they become twisted and misplaced when we manifest these

behaviors towards the infiltrators of darkness. In fact, extending hospitality and loving support to the practitioners of witchcraft or the intentional children of Hell is as foolish as the aforementioned city sending greeting cards and gift baskets to the invaders instead of positioning its troops to mount a quick and powerful defense.

From the point of our first meeting at that spiritual retreat, we increasingly reached out to Adrienne showering her with loving ministry and support. Throughout the end of 2010 and into the early part of 2011, Adrienne became a frequent ministry guest in our home. It was common for her to work several days, drive to our house, and stay with us for an extended weekend.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits...
Matthew 7:15–16

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
Matthew 10:16



Keys to quickly identify a spiritual wolf

The following are characteristics of a spiritual wolf:

- *A wolf often appears as the weakest, most needy, and most pitiable “lamb”. Infiltrating wolves always look “Christian” (Matthew 7:15).*
- *A wolf will not be blessed by any amount of effort expended in his behalf. There is no lasting benefit in his/her life for all the time and resources expended in his/her behalf. The wolf continues to make “poor” and ungodly choices, bringing about the need for a “rescue” time and again (Proverbs 19:19).*
- *He/she will always need more—demand more (Isaiah 57:20).*



...identify a spiritual wolf... continued

- *A wolf is very self-centered, using others, often until they are fully consumed and have nothing left to give (Galatians 5:15).*
- *A wolf preys upon Christian love. He/she demands it, even guilt-tripping Christians into repeatedly demonstrating it, should they ever begin to suspect his/her true wolfish nature (Matthew 10:16).*
- *A wolf's presence will be a continual devouring force. The Christian's time, talents, and funds will be drained until little, or nothing remains for anyone else. Allowing this is not good stewardship of the resources God has entrusted into your care (1 Peter 4:10).*
- *A wolf will ask for blessings, but cannot be blessed. This is because he/she only seeks to selfishly consume the blessings to satisfy his/her own carnal desires. God does not pour blessings into such a life, nor is it His Will for His children to pour blessings into such a life (James 4:1-4).*
- *Once a spiritual wolf is rightly identified, take the steps to bring him/her to repentance, as listed in Matthew 18:15–16. If he/she will not repent and turn from being an active destroyer in the home or church, complete the final step in Matthew 18:17. If the spiritual wolf still persists in “wolfishness”—after the steps of Matthew 18 are lovingly and prayerfully carried out—your family and spiritual family will only be protected by fully removing this individual from fellowship, as stated in Matthew 18:17. Because compliance with the godly steps of Matthew 18 is God's Will, failure to take these steps in dealing with a wolf will result in allowing the spiritual wolf to destroy your home or church. Destruction is always the goal of the wolf (Matthew 18:15–17).*
- *A wolf will not respect any human authority in his/her life.*



...identify a spiritual wolf... continued

He/she may say that he/she accepts the Authority of God and God alone. But in rejecting human authority and in disrespecting the Heavenly-appointed spiritual leaders in his/her life, the wolf is not submitting to God's Authority in his/her life (Romans 13:1-5).



Adrienne still seemed physically weak, following a lengthy and debilitating illness. While she struggled to regain her health, it was difficult for her to support herself, adding a financial crisis to Adrienne's drawn-out, downward spiral.

But as great as were her physical needs, Adrienne's cries for spiritual help seemed to be the most compelling of all. After her anointing and baptism at the retreat, Adrienne required much prayer and loving support. So, we used her frequent visits in our home to encourage and strengthen her and help her learn to use the new principles of spiritual warfare and victorious Christian living (from our *Keys to Living Like You've Been Saved* booklet and workshop materials).

Since 2007, when Mark and I first entered full-time, "self-supporting" (God-supporting) ministry, we have lived with the awareness that "our" home, resources, time, and talents were not really ours, but God's. We have lived on His timetable, Living with this mindset meant that it was commonplace for us to invite Adrienne, or any other new acquaintance, into our home—no questions asked.

On one occasion, we invited Adrienne to stay with us for nearly a month. It was our winter break from homeschool, so I felt we would have more time to devote to Adrienne's needs. During this time, we prayerfully ministered to her physically, mentally, and spiritually in order to help her get back "on her feet." Adrienne seemed grateful for this help and (at first) seemed to strengthen and improve.

Very early in my experience with Adrienne, my family and I noticed

that no amount of effort to bless her ever seemed to be enough. If we gave her funds, she still needed more. If we helped her with a crisis, there were always more crises to address. If we spent a week with her, she needed a month.

As I mentioned before, nothing we did or gave to Adrienne was ever enough. It was like we were pouring resources, time, and blessings down a black hole. Everything was consumed into nothingness, for in spite of all our efforts, the gaping hole of Adrienne's apparent need remained as great as it had been before we began working to fill it.

Slowly, inexorably, like a python swallowing its victims, Adrienne devoured more and still more of my talents, time, and abilities. Yet, in spite of all that was given, Adrienne kept demanding more and still more of my resources, time, and attention. Adrienne's devouring tendency was the first early warning sign which indicated that she was a spiritual predator, who had come to devour and destroy.

When God is at work, the people involved are always blessed. But when the forces of Hell are at work, the people of God are consumed, yet there is no blessing. The fact that we were being increasingly consumed, while Adrienne was not being helped in any lasting way, was a clear sign that God was not working in our ministry towards her. This was another indicator that—rather than being a needy “lamb” in the Father's Fold—Adrienne was really a predatory wolf.

The Saviour warned His followers about wolves. He also carefully instructed us on how to recognize them. They cannot be identified by how they appear, for they truly look like “sheep”. But, they are identifiable by their “fruits”, which are their actions and attitudes. Also, curses—not blessings—rest on the life of the wolf *and* upon everyone who tries to help him.

Because we failed to quickly identify Adrienne as a fully-functioning wolf, we brought her into our home and housed her under our roof. In so doing, God's protection over our family and home was increasingly breached. Thus, while our defenses were down, Hell invaded our home and evil spirits began to manifest, especially targeting our children!

This torment began in the form of dark dreams.

After just two nights of Adrienne's sleeping on the trundle in our then ten-year-old daughter's room, the trouble began. Dawn was just lightening the sky on the morning of the third day, when Katrina crawled into my husband's and my bed and cuddled up next to me.

"Mommy," she whispered, "I had a really bad dream."

"What did you dream?" I pushed back a stray tendril of hair from her face and held her comfortingly.

"I dreamed that you and Daddy had scary red eyes. And so did CJ (our older son's nickname)."

"Red eyes? Why did we have red eyes?"

"You weren't really you," the fear was palpable in her voice as she related the nightmare. "You looked like you. But you were all really demons. I couldn't find anywhere (safe) to go. I was by myself. And I knew the devil wanted to turn me into a demon, too."

I held my trembling child and warfare prayed aloud (prayer on page 32) against the Spirit of Fear attacking her through this dream. As I prayed for Katrina, I was mentally entreating God to know what "leak" had formed in our family's spiritual "umbrella" that would allow such a demonic nightmare to torment our daughter.

Katrina had experienced bad dreams before, but nothing of such a clearly demonic magnitude. In fact, this was the beginning of a series of demonic dreams to afflict Katrina, which I would better describe as "night terrors."

The next night, Katrina's sleep was again disrupted by a supernatural dream. This time she cried out in her sleep, seemingly unable to awaken herself by the real sounds of her distress. Stirred by her cries and seeing the child in the obvious throws of another nightmare, Adrienne woke Katrina, ending the dream. Then to Adrienne's sympathetic ear,

our very shaken little girl poured out the story of how demons were once again trying to get her in her sleep.

A couple of hours later, as I was in the kitchen preparing breakfast, Adrienne helped me cook by cutting up some fruit. After briefly conversing on mundane pleasantries, she brought up the subject of Katrina's nightmare and explained how she had tried to help.

"After I woke her up, I could see she was very upset. I thought she might feel better if she talked about it. So, I asked her if she wanted to tell me what she had dreamed. I just hated to see her so afraid. After she told me about her nightmare, I prayed with her," Adrienne recounted.

"Thank you for helping her," I beamed the grateful smile a mother gives a benefactor of her beloved child. "But I'm sorry that your sleep was disturbed."

"I was glad I could be there for her," Adrienne paused arranging the cut fruits neatly on a serving platter. "Does she have bad dreams often?" "She does have them now and then," I admitted, failing to add that she had never had one as supernaturally terrifying as the dreams of the past two nights.

"What do you suppose causes them?"

"Well, I'm actually praying to know the answer to that." We carried the dishes to the table, as I called everyone to breakfast.

After the meal, the rest of the day passed pleasantly enough. Adrienne and I visited and worked together at times. I sat with her and answered her spiritual warfare questions. She consumed much time and attention. But, I reasoned that this was all to be expected. After all, was it not for this purpose that we had invited her for a lengthy stay?

In spite of the peacefulness of the day, as the sun began to set and the day drew to a close, I found myself worrying about what kind of a night Katrina would have. I knew that such demonic attacks could manifest

in a household if there were cursed items in the home (Deuteronomy 7:26). But there were no obvious cursed or evil items to remove from our house. Nothing had really changed since the previous night. But to be certain there would be no more demonic nightmares, I planned to warfare pray over Katrina's bed as I tucked her in for the night.

From my vantage point, sitting on the sofa before the fire with Adrienne, I called out to my daughter, "Katrina, go brush your teeth. It's time to get ready for bed."

When I could hear the distinct sounds of obedience coming from the direction of her bedroom, I turned my attention back to my conversation with Adrienne.

Katrina, alone in the back part of the house, bent over her bathroom sink, as she brushed her teeth.

"Hsssss!"

Startled, Katrina turned around to see what had caused the sound. But it emanated from the "empty" room behind her, clearly audible above the sounds of the running faucet water where Katrina had been rinsing out her toothbrush.

Then out of the corner of her eye, Katrina glimpsed a human-like, smoky shape moving towards her open doorway.

"Mommy..." she croaked, frozen in place, her voice barely above a whisper. "Mommy!" she called again as her legs would finally move. By now she was running out the door and down the hall towards the living room. "MOMMY!"

Having jumped up from the couch on her second call, I was already moving down the hall towards her. We met in the dimly lit hallway.

"What's the matter?" I cried, alarmed at her obvious terror.

"There was a demon in my bedroom," she began, the rest of her story

gushing out in panicked gasps, as I led the way back to her room.

Immediately, when I entered her bedroom, my spiritual “antennae” signaled a full “red alert.” The air was thick with unspoken menace, raising the hair on the back of my neck.

“Spirit of Fear and all demons that are in this bedroom, house, or are in any way harassing my family, in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ, I bind you and rebuke you and command you to leave Katrina alone. You must leave this room, this house, and this property at once!” I spoke loudly into the oppressive silence of the room. For good measure, I added again, “In the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I command it!” Immediately, the evil presence left, and my daughter’s bedroom was restored as a place of peace.

Then I turned back to my daughter, put my arms around her, and prayed aloud, asking God to send His holy angels to camp round about Katrina and our whole house. Thanking Him for His promised protection, I concluded my prayer and assured Katrina, “It’s okay now, Sweetie. Our God is so big and powerful that no demons can stay, when He makes them go. His mighty angels are here with us, watching over you.”

After a few moments, I put my hands on her shoulders and pulled her back so I could read the expression on her face. “Are you okay now?”

Katrina nodded.

“Praise God! He’s very good to us. Now, I want you to finish getting ready for bed.” I kissed her forehead and headed back towards the living room, where Adrienne had been waiting, unaware of the battle so recently fought at the back of the house.

“Is everything okay?” she asked, referring to my abrupt exit and lengthy absence.

“Yes. Katrina just needed me for a moment,” was my rather cryptic reply. “Because of the trouble Katrina has been having with bad dreams, I think we should move you out of her room.”



How to recognize a breach in God's Protection over your home

- *When people sleep under the same roof, the spirits in them (whether the Holy Spirit or demonic entities) gain access to the household. Bringing someone into your home as a guest is part of fellowshiping with them. Such hospitality should not be extended to those who are actively choosing darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14–18).*
- *Bringing cursed objects or people into a house breaches the protective anointing of God over a home (Deuteronomy 7:26).*
- *Demonic presences and supernatural manifestations in a home are clear signs that the protective anointing of God has been breached over the home (Proverbs 26:2).*
- *Demonic presences and supernatural manifestations **cannot** occur in a home where Satan doesn't have legal rights or ground (Proverbs 26:2).*
- *The protection of God over a Christian home is only breached by the ungodly actions or attitudes of the home's occupants, or by bringing a cursed object into the house (Deuteronomy 7:26).*
- *While Christian people are walking with God with every known sin confessed and surrendered, and while they are in full harmony with God's Will—by His Grace, they are as uncursable as Israel was in the days of king Balak.*

In Numbers 23:17–23 we read the story of how Balak, the Moabite king, hired Balaam, the most renowned sorcerer in all of Mesopotamia, to curse Israel. Highly motivated by the king's promise of a rich reward, Balaam repeatedly tried his best to curse the people of



How to recognize... continued...

God. He even offered God a total of 42 sacrifices to enable his curse. Still, whenever he opened his mouth to curse them, all Balaam could do was bless Israel over and over again. This story powerfully demonstrates that as long as God's Protection was over them, Israel was simply uncursable! Balaam even confessed (Numbers 23:21) to king Balak that because Israel's iniquities were completely forgiven and cleansed, God wouldn't allow Balaam to curse them. As this story powerfully illustrates, curses never come upon God's people, unless there is a cause. Thus, the cause must be discovered and cleansed away as quickly as possible in order to regain the vital protection of Almighty God over the household.

When a spiritual breach in God's Protection over your home exists, there will be manifestations, which may include:

- *A lack of interest in spiritual things. Family members can stay awake for an "exciting" movie, but cannot stay awake or interested in hearing the Word of God, spending time in worshipping God, or other such spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14).*
- *Unseen presences may be felt. Spirits may even become visible, sometimes appearing as dead people, sometimes appearing as smokey humanoid shapes, etc. Children may be fearful of "monsters" under the bed. Fear seems to come with darkness (2 Timothy 1:7, 1 John 4:18).*
- *Weird things may happen in the house. For example, perhaps lights turn on and off by themselves. Items go missing in extraordinary ways. Doors open and close. It may even get more personal with unseen hands attacking family members or other such scary manifestations. Such things are evidences*



How to recognize... continued...

of curses. They **cannot** happen in a home where all the objects are spiritually clean and where all the occupants are covered under the Blood of Jesus and are living in full submission to God (Proverbs 26:2).

- *Strife or rebellion in the home is always evidence of the working of dark spirits (James 3:14–16, 1 Samuel 15:23).*
- *Pain, illness (Spirit of Infirmity) or mental confusion which comes whenever someone tries to worship God, read the Bible or some other godly material. This can manifest in headaches, vomiting or diarrhea, an inability to focus the eyes on the words—which only happens when the person is trying to participate in Christ-centered or Spiritual Warfare readings or activities (James 3:16, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Luke 13:11).*



“You don’t think the spirits are getting the right to attack her because I’m here, do you?” Adrienne’s expression seemed worried. “Could this be happening to Katrina because of where my feet have trod? Is this my fault?”

I waved my hand, as if to erase the question from the air between us. “How could this be your fault? Katrina’s had bad dreams over the years. I don’t know what’s causing these dreams now. But, I think we should move you so your sleep won’t be disturbed another night. Your body is still healing, and you need a full night’s sleep.”

“Will Katrina be okay, sleeping alone?”

“Thank you for your concern, and I really appreciate how you helped her after last night’s nightmare. But tonight I am going to pray against Satan when I tuck her in, so that he cannot attack her in her dreams. Then, if she is even slightly afraid tonight, she can come into my room

and sleep with her father and me. We'll do whatever it takes to make certain that she's okay."

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make My dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "And touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (ESV)

As the sparrow in its wandering, as the swallow in its flight, so the curse causeless shall never come.

Proverbs 26:2 (JUB)

Note: *Curses never come upon us without a cause—and the cause is that we have given satan legal rights or ground (knowingly or unknowingly).*

Without further comment, Adrienne and I hauled her things to her new sleeping quarters on the sofa-sleeper in our office. Then she returned to her position on the couch, where she waited for me as I tucked Katrina in for the night.

As one might imagine, it took a while to get Katrina quieted down enough to fall asleep. I tried turning the overhead light off, leaving her with only her usual nightlight. But that night, she simply refused to sleep unless every light was ablaze, dispelling every shadow and illuminating every corner.

Turning out only the hall light, I returned to the living room and rejoined Adrienne before the fire. The flames danced as we spent the early night hours in quiet conversation, taking a break from the more intense ministry topics of earlier that day.

It was easy to converse with Adrienne. In fact, I found myself genuinely liking her. She was bright, understanding, and intuitive. I truly enjoyed my

time with her. Yet, I instinctively held her off at mental “arm’s length.” I sensed that Adrienne still had demonic strongholds and bondage points. My awareness that Adrienne still had strongholds and bondage points was not a deterrent in my prayerful desire to *agape* love and minister to her. I knew that God would surely reveal her remaining bondage points, in His time.

However, no matter how likeable she was, while such spiritual strongholds remained, I certainly could not allow myself to become spiritually joined to her by allowing the ties of close friendship to bond us. Had I done so, I knew that the spirits still working to bring destruction in her life would have direct access to me also.

Spiritually, forming deep friendship bonds with the victims of demonic oppression is like trying to rescue a drowning man by jumping into the depths with him. Now facing the same deep waters as the drowning man, quite often the intended rescuer is overpowered in the victim’s desperate struggle. Instead of a successful rescue, both the would-be rescuer and the original victim drown together.

The Bible warns that we become joined to the spirits working in someone’s life through fellowship and the bonds of deep friendship. If Christ is the spiritual force in one person’s life while the enemy is the spiritual force in the life of the other, fellowship in such cases brings a clash between opposing spiritual forces. We find this principle in 2 Corinthians 6:14–18.

Not only are God’s people referred to as “Temples of the Living God”, but also our homes are to be Heavenly Temples. This means that we are not to breach the anointing over our lives or homes by bringing in the unrepentant practitioners of darkness. Darkness in the lives of a home’s occupants—whether family or guests—brings darkness and curses upon the whole household.

Demonic spirits appearing in a home, or other such hellish manifestations, should never be ignored. These are symptoms of a deep spiritual problem. They reveal that a curse has been brought upon the household. Curses do not just happen. They only come when we have know-

ingly or unknowingly opened the door to the enemy by departing from God's Principles and fellowshiping with darkness (Proverbs 26:2).

Considering this principle—and the danger of disregarding it—one may wonder how to determine which people are safe to bring into the home as guests. The disconcerting truth is that artful practitioners of witchcraft can put on quite a convincing show of being repentant. As we painfully learned in our experience with Adrienne, even a person's tearful profession of repentance may be faked. The danger of inadvertently breaching God's protection over your home by bringing in a dark occupant makes it necessary to pray for special discernment from Heaven before opening your home to anyone. It also means that we must seek to discern the fruit in the life. It is only by the fruits that we can perceive the true spirits at work.

Failing to recognize these early warning signs, we opened the doors of our home to Adrienne. We did not discern our danger in so doing; but when we opened our door to Adrienne, we unknowingly opened our door to her spirits as well.

That night, after my daughter had been demonically tormented in her formerly safe bedroom, conversation between Adrienne and I ebbed and flowed late into the night, sprinkled now and again with a touch of laughter. But underneath it all, serious questions niggled at the back of my mind. Why had this breach formed in our family's spiritual protection? Could it be that Adrienne's presence had brought demon spirits into our home? Or was there some area of unconfessed sin in us, giving the devil rights to afflict us?

Having witnessed Adrienne's tearful professions of repentance for her past, I could not imagine that she might have been putting on a show of "repentance" to better deceive me. Since this possibility never even crossed my mind, I could not discern that spiritual bondage in *Adrienne* was the cause. Yet, I also couldn't account for the spiritual onslaught now manifesting in my home. Had I possessed any inkling of how great was our danger, I would have fasted and prayed until I received deeper insight and the ability to recognize the early warnings that curses were developing over our home and family.

Looking back on it now—remembering the depths of my ignorance and what it would cost us—I *shudder!* So dangerous was my lack of discernment, that I stood passively by while the floodgates of destruction were being loosed upon me and upon everyone I loved. Yet, amidst it all, with Hell gaining ground by the moment, I was busy sending “greeting cards” and “gift baskets” to the Enemy. Instead of responding with all-out spiritual warfare against the deadliest onslaught of my life, I was foolishly entertaining an *emissary of Hell* under my roof, believing it was the “Christian” thing to do...



A Warfare Prayer to defeat the Spirit of Fear

The following is a warfare prayer against the spirit of fear. Warfare prayers only work after you have confessed and repented for all known, personal sins—Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 28:9).

Dear Heavenly Father, please empower me by Your Spirit. Teach me to war effectively, as you have promised in Psalm 144:1. By faith, I claim Your Heavenly Weapons against the enemy who is attacking me. Your Weapons, which You give for my warfare are not of this earth (carnal), but are mighty through You to pull down all the strongholds of the enemy. Your Weapons cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against me (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Please equip me with Your Weapons.

Also, Father, You have promised that when the enemy comes in like a flood, you will lift up a standard against him (Isaiah 59:19). Please lift up Your Standard against the forces of Hell in my life right now, for the enemy is flooding in.



A Warfare Prayer... continued...

Spirit of fear, where you are working to destroy _____ (name), in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ, I bind and rebuke you (Matthew 12:29, Mark 16:17). And, in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ, I command you to take your demons, rights, curses, chains, bondage, strongholds, soul-ties, and ground and leave _____ (name) immediately!

Go wherever God sends you this instant!

Dear Heavenly Father, You have promised to send Your Holy Angels to protect us (Psalm 91:11). According to Your promise, I

ask You to please surround _____ (name) with a legion of Your Angels to drive back the forces of darkness just now. I thank You for Your promise that You do not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Please bless _____ (name) according to Your promise. I thank You and I ask these blessings in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Warfare Prayers only work after the intercessor has confessed and repented for all known, personal sins.

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is His delight,” Proverbs 15:8.

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be (an) abomination,” Proverbs 28:9.

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,” James 5:16.

When Satan has legal rights—or ground—in your household,



A Warfare Prayer... continued...

either in the occupants of your home or through cursed objects, there will be a breach in God's Protection over your home. This breach is revealed by the manifestation of curses.

Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing. Deuteronomy 7:26

Curses in a Christian home should never be ignored. When we recognize the warning signs that the enemy has the right to curse us—demonstrated by demonic manifestations in the home—we need to quickly come to God, hit our knees and cry out to Him to discover the cause of the curse. As is powerfully demonstrated in the Bible story of Balaam and king Balak, God's people are uncursable while they are forgiven for their past sins and are walking in harmony with the Will of God (Numbers 23:17-23 and Proverbs 26:2.



PERSONAL WARFARE REALITY CHECK: EFFECTIVELY RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO THE WOLVES IN YOUR LIFE

- 1) Review the characteristics of a spiritual wolf (pages 23-25).
- 2) Pray and ask God to plainly reveal if there are any spiritual wolves operating in your sphere of influence. Identify which of the spiritual wolf-identifying characteristics are manifesting in this person?

(Check all wolf characteristics that apply on the following page)



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- This person is a financial drain upon you or others.
- This person is an emotional drain upon you or others.
- This person claims to be Christian but his/her attitudes, choices and actions most often fail the Fruit Test.
- This person is a “user”.
- This person is rebellious against God and/or authority.
- This person is never really blessed by all the help he/she is given.
- This person keeps getting back into the same issues/problems and needs help again and again.
- This person is motivated by selfishness.
- The influence of this person’s life/presence in the home or fellowship brings strife, confusion, or other forms of destructive influence.
- This person’s influence or presence threatens to break up marriages, friendships, or other godly relationships.
- Nothing ever seems to be enough to satisfy this person. No matter how much is given, more is always demanded.
- Although the person claims to belong to Christ, there is no lasting life-change to match this claim.

4) Discern how the forces of darkness already working through this wolf to destroy you, your family, or your church family. _____

5) Follow the steps of Matthew 18:15–17 to deal with the spiritual wolf effectively. Check the biblical steps as you complete them (on the following pages):



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

Step 1 - Speak to the person privately. Pray for God to help you reclaim the heart of the wolf, bringing him/her to repentance. Then privately go and speak with this person. Be sure your attitudes are gentle, loving and forgiving. Speak without pride or haughtiness. Sincerely labor to reclaim this person for the cause of Christ. Lovingly point out the issues, and encourage the person to repent.

Step 2 - Prayerfully assess the results of your meeting. Did the person see his/her need to repent? _____ Did the person repent and turn to God without being defensive? _____ Can you see a change in his/her life? _____. If you answered “Yes” to all of the above questions, praise God! The lost person has been reclaimed! If you answered “No” to any of the above questions, proceed to Step 3.

Step 3 - Take an elder or other committed Christian with you and try to entreat the person again. Ask someone to join you in working to reclaim this wolf, bringing him/her to repentance. Choose someone whom you respect as a Christian with a real experience with God. Explain the issues. Pray together for the “wolf”. Go and meet with the person together, identifying the areas which are a cause for great concern. Again, invite the person to repent of these destructive tendencies and turn fully to Christ.

Step 4 - Prayerfully assess the results of your meeting. Did the person see his/her need to repent? _____ Did the person repent and turn to God without being defensive? _____ Can you see a change in his/her life? _____. If you answered “Yes” to all of the above questions, praise God! The lost person has been reclaimed! If you answered “No” to any of the above questions, proceed to Step 5.



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

Step 5 - Involve the Whole Body of Christ. Explain the issues, concerns and situation to your whole church family. Do this without bitterness, gossip, or any other Fruit-test-failing attitude. Call the Body of Christ together to pray for this person. Fasting and praying is especially effective. Following an agreed-upon period of prayer, bring the offending person before the whole church. Lovingly present the concerns and issues. Explain the necessary steps to take to come for genuine repentance and true conversion. Invite the spiritual wolf to repent and be transformed into a true spiritual sheep, following the Master Shepherd.

Step 6 - Prayerfully assess the results of your meeting. Did the person see his/her need to repent? _____ Did the person repent and turn to God without being defensive? _____ Can you see a change in his/her life? _____. If you answered “Yes” to all of the above questions, praise God! The lost person has been reclaimed! If you answered “No” to any of the above questions, proceed to Step 7.

Step 7 - Cut off all fellowship with this person in both your family and congregation. Failure to do so will result in your destruction, for an unrepentant spiritual wolf can only destroy (2 Corinthians 6:14–18).

6) Examine your home, prayerfully, for any signs that God’s protection has been breached. Are there any possible signs that curses are manifesting in your household? (*For now, just note any symptomatic manifestations. An explanation of what to do about curses in the home will be given later this book. Check all that apply.*)

One or more members of my household demonstrate a lack of interest in spiritual things.



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- One or more members of my household demonstrate a lack of desire to worship or spend time with God.
- Unseen presences have been felt in my home.
- Supernatural manifestations have been witnessed in my home. List what has occurred: _____

- Members of my household are fearful and/or have panic attacks.
- A spirit of strife (fighting—strained relationships between family members) is attacking my home through one or more members of my household.
- A spirit of infirmity is attacking one or more members of my household (giving the person(s) pain or illness whenever spiritual activities occur.)
- A spirit of rebellion is attacking one or more members of my household (manifesting in rebellion against God, the Will of God, and/or the godly authorities in the home.)

7) Pray. If any of these issues are present in your life or home, be encouraged to know that we will address what to do about them in the coming pages of this book. For now, pray the following Warfare Prayer, on the behalf of yourself and your family:

Dear Heavenly Father, My family and I are in a spiritual crisis. There are elements of curses in my household. There are the presences of destroying wolves. Please teach my hands to war and my fingers to fight, as you have promised in Psalm 144:1. I recognize that the weapons of my warfare are not carnal (of this earth), but are mighty through You to pull down the enemy's strongholds in my family and home (2 Corinthians 10:4). In Your Strength and Power, please help me to stop fight-



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

ing with flesh, and start effectively warring after the Spirit (2 Corinthians 10:3).

According to Your Promise in Psalm 18:17, please deliver my family and me from the strong enemy—from them that are too strong for me. Please bring me and all of my household into a large place and safe pastures. Please make us free from the enemy's onslaught (Psalm 18:9).

By Your Grace, please help me and my household to tread upon the spiritual lion and the adder, the young lion and even the dragon (Satan) you will empower me to trample under my feet (Psalm 91:13). Please fully deliver us and take back all the ground and rights which Satan has claimed. Please complete this good Work in my home. I ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.





MY WARFARE STRATEGIES:



CHAPTER THREE

The Weapon of Guilt

And I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:10

If someone were to ask you to identify the most powerful spiritual weapons for destroying Christians, which would you list? Lust? Rage? Abuse? Drugs? These certainly are powerful weapons in the armory of darkness. But some of the most devastating weapons are those which may escape our notice. Guilt may be one of the most unnoticed munitions, yet it is among the most destructive. Perhaps, in all the arsenal of darkness, there is no more powerful weapon for motivating Christians to make wrong choices than guilt. In his book, *Fasting for Breakthrough and Deliverance*, John Eckhardt explains:

Guilt is one of the worst things you can allow to control your life. Guilt comes from condemnation, shame, unworthiness, embarrassment... Guilt is the root of countless diseases and unhappiness... The longer you carry (it), the more damage (it does). (p. 73)

Because I didn't take much notice of guilt as a powerful weapon of darkness, I was overcome by it. In fact, it was through guilt that I was especially motivated to remove my spiritual safeguards, as will be

explained in this chapter. But there was a purpose in destroying my spiritual safeguards. For only when my protection was removed was I

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 13:20

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Proverbs 27:6

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

open to the formation of a close friendship with Adrienne. Although I wasn't fully aware of it at the time, I have since learned that relationships are the single most powerful force in our lives. Godly relationships produce blessing, greater strength, increased enlightenment and freedom of the soul. But relationships forged in darkness are the single most powerful destructive force (Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 27:6). They are a curse, producing moral and spiritual weakness, deepening ignorance and bondage of the soul. This is why Scripture warns us repeatedly to forge the bonds of deep

friendship prayerfully and with the guidance of Heaven.

There is no question that Christians are supposed to *agape* love and minister to everyone. It is from this ministry that the members of darkness may be won and brought into the Light. But the *agape* love in ministry does not involve "fellowship" with darkness. Fellowship is a depth of bonding that takes the relationship to the level in which soul-bonds are formed. As it says in 2 Corinthians 6:14, when a Christian forges a bond of fellowship with someone who is in darkness, a spiritual yoke is formed, bringing spiritual darkness into the soul of the formerly Light-filled Christian.

A physical yoke is a wooden bond which harnesses two oxen together. Similarly, a spiritual yoke is an unseen soul-bond which spiritually binds two people together. When such yokes are formed with believers, the two are better able to serve God, accomplishing more together than they could individually. A godly soul-bond is a great blessing.



Identifying the ways that Soul-bonds are formed

Soul-bonds spiritually knit the souls of people together, allowing the spiritual driving-force in the life of one to enter the other. According to the Scriptures, Soul-bonds are formed in the following ways:

- *A group of people who unite for a common purpose become soul-bonded, or spiritually “knit” together. In the case of the Body of Christ, the soul-bond is a good one.*

So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man, Judges 20:11.

So we, being many, are one Body in Christ, and every one members one of another, Romans 12:5.

- *When people become close friends, a soul-bond is formed between them. The deeper the friendship is, the more powerful the spiritual... soul-bond will be. In the case of David and Jonathan, the soul-bond, formed of deep friendship, was a godly one.*

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul, 1 Samuel 18:1.

- *Bonding rituals form soul-bonds in all who participate in them. Biblical Communion and baptism are examples of good bonding rituals, producing righteous soul-bonds. Conversely, ungodly soul-bonds are formed through the bonding rituals of the occult or secret societies. This is a fact of which those in dark leadership are well aware, as is clearly demonstrated in the last quotation of this section:*



...Soul-bonds... continued...

For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one Bread, 1 Corinthians 10:17.

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His Resurrection, Romans 6:4–5.

That sacred and invisible bond that unites men of the most discordant opinions into one band of brothers, which gives one language to men of all nations and one altar to men of all religions, is properly, from the mysterious influence it exerts, denominated the mystic tie; and Freemasons, because they alone are under its influence, or enjoy its benefits, are called brethren of the mystic tie' - Albert Mackey 33rd Degree Mason. An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry, Vol. 2, page 778.

- *Companionship and partnerships are also ways in which soul-bonds are formed. When the soul-bond of partnership is formed with a “pagan”, we unwittingly become partnered with the demons at work in the unbeliever as well. This is why we should only form partnerships with fellow Christians.*

I am a companion of all them that fear Thee, and of them that keep Thy Precepts, Psalm 119:63.

What pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and



...Soul-bonds... continued...

...not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons, 1 Corinthians 10:20.

- *In marriage, a soul-bond is formed between a husband and wife. The marital bond is a deep spiritual joining. This is clear because Scripture says that “God” has “joined” the man and woman “together” so powerfully that no person can break the bonding.*

...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder, Matthew 19:5–6.

- *A soul-bond is formed through lust and fornication. In the soul-bond, a direct connection is made with the forces of darkness at work in the life of the object of this lust or fornication. This is made plain in the story of ancient Israel. Many men of Israel committed fornication with the pagan women of the Moabite nation. Baal was the name of the sun god (Satan) in those days. These unrepentant men had become “joined” to Satan through their soul-ties with idolatrous women. To purge the camp of the resulting demonic influx, it was necessary to slay the men:*

And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Every one of you kill his men who were JOINED to BAAL PEOR, Numbers 25:5.

What? Know ye not that he which is JOINED to an harlot (prostitute) is one body? For two, saith He, shall be one flesh, 1 Corinthians 6:16.



Being unequally yoked with unbelievers is actually a curse! Of all the dark soul-bonds which may destroy a Christian, the most dangerous is the bond formed by fellowship with witches, satanists, or members of the occult. The level of darkness which enters a Christian's soul through a soul-bond formed with the unrepentant practitioners of evil is so great that the "friendship" becomes a doorway which opens to the very kingdom of Hell itself.

Doctor Rebecca Brown states this principle very plainly in her book *Prepare for War*:

Normally, Christians are hedged about so that demons cannot get into them. Non-Christians are also protected to a certain extent in that the Lord does not allow demons to violate their free wills. Thus, in both cases of Christians and non-Christians, an opening in the protective hedge must be made before demons can get into a person to actually dwell in their bodies...

"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it. And whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him," Ecclesiastes 10:8

All through Scripture, demons are referred to as serpents and scorpions. Jesus Himself said:

*"Behold I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy..."
Luke 10:19.*

Sin breaks a hole in the protective hedge, many times allowing a demon to actually enter into the person committing the sin. I call such holes doorways.

The Scriptures are very plain. Any dealings with Satan open a doorway in a person's life for the inflow of satanic power and/or demon infestation. God told the Israelites:

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek

after wizards, to be defiled by them. I Am the Lord your God,” Leviticus 19:31.

...Every person needs to be aware of possible doorways in his own life... (p. 114-115).

Being somewhat aware of the power of spiritual soul-bonds, it was my habit to minister to those coming out of darkness without entering into the bonds of deep friendship with them. Developing a close friendship with someone—a sisterhood—was reserved only for the committed members of the Body of Christ.

God protects His Children when they walk in obedience to His Will, expressed in His Word. My obedience to this vital relationship principle was one of the most powerful spiritual safeguards, which had protected my soul, limiting the infiltration of Hell up to this point. But, the spiritual darkness in Adrienne was determinedly battering against my protective hedge. Using one soul-bonding temptation after another, the enemy worked through Adrienne trying to form a soul-bond with me, which would fully open the doorway to darkness in my life and in the lives of my spiritual friends and family. Unbeknownst to me, by simply “fellowshipping” with Adrienne, a weaker soul-bond had already been forged and the doorway to Hell was cracked open.

After that first night when a demon terrified my daughter in her bedroom, I warfare-prayed nightly to prevent the enemy from attacking Katrina again—either in her dreams or room. She slept soundly and without further harassment while these prayers continued. But when, on a couple of occasions, I missed a night, Katrina’s night terrors returned in full force. So, I kept up these bedtime prayers until they became our new nightly routine. Katrina would say her prayers, and I would warfare pray over her for a peaceful night’s sleep.

At some point, at least a couple of weeks later, I quit warfare praying against bad dreams and peace still reigned at night. At the time, I did not connect these attacks with our house guest. But the night terrors ended when Adrienne was no longer under our roof. In retrospect, I can clearly see that Katrina’s nightmares were brought on by spirits in

Adrienne.

But while the origins of this first spiritual attack remained clouded in the mists of my uncertainty, I recognized that the origins of the second spiritual encounter were from demonic forces accessing us through Adrienne. This obvious attack hit me while Adrienne and I were waiting in the car in front of Katrina's music teacher's house.

Hell's second attempt to forge a soul-bond between Adrienne and me came in the form of lust—which was entirely out of character for me, especially considering that Adrienne was a woman! Since Adrienne was a guest in our home again, I had invited her to ride along in the car with us, when I took Katrina to her piano lesson. Upon arriving at the teacher's house, Katrina took her music bag and went inside, while Adrienne and I waited in the car.

We had been casually visiting together for several minutes when, suddenly, it grabbed me! Invisible, yet tangible, a powerful force arched from Adrienne to me. In the center of my being, I felt as if there was a place, previously untouched and unknown to me, which was now being deeply affected. I felt the supernatural sensation from my head to my toes.

In that seizing sensation, came a "sleazy-feeling" of attraction for Adrienne! I was stunned! How could I be feeling this way? I had *never* been attracted to a woman in my life. Honestly, because I was deeply committed to my husband, *men* could not even attract me, although some had tried. Yet, in that moment, with that spirit grabbing me at the very center of my being, I had an overwhelming desire for her!

Shocked, both at the lustful sensation and its magnitude—all of which hit me in a split second—I turned to look at Adrienne. She continued gazing out the windshield, chatting away, without even missing a beat in her flow of words! I was amazed! What was going on here?

Quickly, I turned my face toward the side window so Adrienne would not see my lips moving. I bound and rebuked the lustful and sexual spirits commanding them to leave me immediately in the Saviour's

Name and Blood. As swiftly as they had come, the sensations and spirits were gone.

Adrienne and I oddly continued our conversation without ever making eye contact, pausing in the flow of verbiage, or in any other way showing an outward sign that we had felt anything. I began to wonder if there was something wrong with me. Was I unknowingly lesbian? Did I have some dark recess of my innermost being that could be attracted to another woman?

From as early as my high school years, I had been associated with lesbian women, one of which had been my roommate in academy. But never had I been attracted to that lifestyle. Yet, there could be no question that I had just experienced a sexual desire for Adrienne, when those spirits gripped me. Even though I knew it was a spiritual attack, which had originated from spirits in Adrienne, I still felt extremely guilty and deeply ashamed.

Several weeks went by, during which I said nothing to anyone about the incident. Even though I intellectually recognized the spiritual attack as a demonic temptation originating from the forces of darkness—and not from me—it was just too shameful of an experience for me to talk about. By this time, Adrienne was no longer staying in our home. In fact, she was staying for a few days with our friends and Bible Fellowship members, Dave and Elizabeth Phillips. Elizabeth and I had also formed a sort of homeschool co-op together.

Having “teamed up,” in order to jointly homeschool our children, Elizabeth and her two teenagers would drive out to our home three days a week to have school with us. Then, on the “off” days, we each helped our children complete their school assignments in our own homes.

On one of our “off” days, when we would normally be homeschooling separately, Elizabeth and her son came to our home, accompanied by Adrienne. Elizabeth’s son, Brent, needed to pick up some forgotten items necessary to complete the next day’s assignments.

After friendly greetings were exchanged, Brent began gathering the

forgotten materials while Adrienne went into the kitchen for a glass of water. Elizabeth took this opportunity to ask me to join her for some private prayer.

“Excuse us for just a moment, Adrienne,” I said as I led the way into the back bedroom. “We’ll be right back.”

Closing the door quietly behind us, I turned to Elizabeth, “What’s up?”

Elizabeth paused, as if trying to determine how to begin. “Have you ever felt anything weird when you were with Adrienne?”

Surprised, I just stared at Elizabeth for a moment as the shameful memories of the supernatural, sexual attack came flooding back into my mind. “Yes,” I admitted.

“Was it sexual?” Elizabeth persisted.

My cheeks burned and I hung my head. “I’m ashamed to say it; but, yes, it was.”

“Me too!”

My eyes met Elizabeth’s in total shock, “I thought it was just me! In fact, it was so bizarre that I started thinking maybe I had just imagined it.”

We stood a moment in silence, mentally processing what it all meant. “I think the spirits were coming through Adrienne to try to get us to soul-bond with her through lust”, I broke the stillness.

“If we had become soul-bonded with her, any darkness from her would have had complete access to us,” Elizabeth finished my thought.

As the full import of what the devil had tried to do sank in, the silence again stretched between us.

“I would like special prayer to make sure the spirits that attacked me are fully gone,” Elizabeth’s serious expression was echoed in my own.

“Me too,” I said, as we both knelt on the bedroom floor together.

Quietly, we prayed, confessing any sin in us from this experience. Then we bound and rebuked the spirits and commanded them to leave us, in the Saviour’s Name and Blood.

Suddenly our thoughts converged, flashing to the names of the other ladies in our Bible Fellowship who had also been closely associated with Adrienne.

“Lynette,” we gasped in unison.

Lynette was the first one we both thought of because she, Elizabeth, and I had been the closest with Adrienne. If the spirits had attacked Elizabeth and me, they likely had attacked Lynette as well.

“I should call her right away!”

“Yes, and the other ladies in our group, also,” Elizabeth added.

“But first let’s pray for Adrienne. This sexual spirit is using her to establish soul-ties with people. And it’s obviously got some bondage over her as well, or it wouldn’t be able to work through her.”

We prayed earnestly for Adrienne, interceding against every demonic spirit we could see working in her, seeking her complete deliverance. We asked God to protect her and to work in her to accomplish His good Purpose in her life.

Rising up from our knees, we promised to continue praying for Adrienne until she found full freedom. We also planned to contact the other ladies in our group, in case they had been similarly attacked, and were in need of deliverance. With peace in our hearts and these objectives in our minds, Elizabeth and I returned to the kitchen to rejoin Adrienne.

Hate slammed my spirit with palpable force the instant we re-entered the room. I felt it radiating out from Adrienne like frost on a pane of glass.

Sucking in my breath, my eyes met Adrienne’s penetrating, malevolent gaze.

The Spirit of Hate stood there, his presence overshadowing Adrienne and diminishing her into insignificance. His form was tall, reaching the full height of our kitchen’s high ceiling. He was ugly and menacing. He was in her and yet above her. I couldn’t actually see the demon with my physical eyes, but I could “see” him as plainly with my spiritual perception as if he stood before me in bodily form.



Share your warfare issues with your spiritual family—evil prospers in silence

- When the forces of darkness attack us, our natural response is to feel shame and guilt for having had such an evil thought or dirty feeling. But this is misplaced shame, which tends to isolate us. It isn’t a sin to simply have an evil thought flit through our minds, or have an ungodly feeling arise. This is what a temptation looks like! Spirits of darkness put their thoughts and feelings into us. The instant they flit through the mind, these thoughts and feelings are not sin on our part. Jesus Christ was perfect—sinless—yet, He was tempted, just like we are tempted (Hebrews 4:14-15).
- When we “own” the thought or feeling, thinking it came from within us rather than recognizing it as a temptation of the enemy, we tend to hide and shut ourselves off from others. The last thing we want to do is speak of our spiritual needs with others. We’re afraid of being judged or becoming too vulnerable. But actually, the opposite is true. We become spiritually vulnerable by secretly carrying these weights. Evil prospers in the dark, and sin is strengthened in the silence. (Proverbs 28:13, James 5:16).



I wasn't the only one to witness the Demon of Hate. Elizabeth was also able to view this demon without physical perception. In fact, later Elizabeth and I compared notes, having both seen the same thing. We were able to complete each other's sentences in explaining its *features*. We had both clearly "seen" and could accurately describe the demon of Hate, yet without physical vision.

Never before in my life had I looked at something with my physical eyes—which could not physically be seen—and yet be able to see it with other eyes! It is as if the spirit realm is viewable with spiritual eyes. Yet, I could only spiritually see the demon while I was physically looking at it.

Without a word passing between us, I averted my gaze, continued into the living room, and began praying against this sizable foe. A pang of sadness jabbed at my heart, realizing that at that moment, Adrienne acted as if she believed I had done some wrong against her, which warranted this hate. I knew intellectually, of course, that her emotions were being controlled by the terrible spirit overpowering her. His hate towards me—projected out from her eyes and body—would feel to her as if it were her own emotion.

It seemed that all of our efforts to minister to Adrienne had progressed forward, only to now retreat backwards two steps for every prior gain. A regretful sigh escaped my lips as I bade the departing Adrienne and Elizabeth goodbye and returned to my day's tasks.

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:34–35

Over the next few days, Elizabeth and I contacted the other ladies in our Bible Fellowship Group one by one. Unsure how to broach such a personal subject, and certain the other ladies would not bring it up to me on their own, I was impressed to simply share with them the testimony of my experience in the car with Adrienne. I believed that as I

explained how I had been attacked by the spirit of sexual attraction, my friends would feel free to open up if something similar had happened to them.

As it turned out, *every* woman in our Bible Fellowship Group had experienced a sexual attack! Several also confirmed that a deep sense of embarrassment had kept them from asking for help or prayer support. Fearing that there must be something personally “wrong” to have been hit with such feelings for another woman, they had felt too ashamed to speak of them. When we shared these experiences and prayed for one another’s deliverance together, each person found spiritual freedom and healing from the sexual attacks.

Naturally, once this personal “house cleaning” had been completed, attention was turned to Adrienne. If spirits of this magnitude could use her to jump out and grab *our* ladies with sexual desire, what degree of bondage must there be? An element of witchcraft was evident in these attacks; whether wielded intentionally by Adrienne or not, we did not know. But all of the ladies who had been supernaturally assaulted were certain that sorcery had been involved.

We were also impressed that these spiritual attacks had not just been a simple attempt to blindside Christian women. It had most fundamentally been the enemy’s intent to establish soul-bonds. With such spiritual channels available to Satan, any number of spirits connected with Adrienne would have had immediate access to the other ladies in our Fellowship Group.

With this awareness, we believed it was godly to *agape* love Adrienne without forming deep bonds of close friendship, until she was fully free. As we have already seen, this principle is given in 2 Corinthians 6:14. Be we didn’t

Obviously, we didn’t think of Adrienne as intentionally choosing darkness. Had we seen her as an unrepentant pagan, still practicing the dark arts of witchcraft while “playing church” with us, we certainly would have shut our doors to her and her spirits. But at this point, we believed her to be “in transition”, having been made free and clean in the areas

known to her. We fully believed she was “growing in Grace,” and would continue to do so.

Still, it was clear that we couldn’t enter into full communion and fellowship with her while sexual spirits like the one that we had all encountered were still active through her. For this reason, my desire to reach out to Adrienne, strengthen her and encourage her in her walk with Messiah, was necessarily counterbalanced by the need to maintain distance from the spirits at work in her life. Personally, I found this balance a difficult one to accomplish.

Having failed to soul-bond with me through lust, the next way in which Adrienne’s darkness sought a doorway into my soul was through the bonds of deep friendship. Repeatedly, Adrienne asked to become my friend and prayer partner. She assured me that she would be the very best friend I had ever had. Again and again she voiced frustration that I was close friends with Elizabeth and Lynette, yet not with her.

“What are you talking about, Adrienne?” I asked, both shocked at her unabashed pursual of close friendship with me and by the suggestion that I wasn’t being effective in loving ministry towards her. “I am doing everything that I can to reach out to you and encourage you in Christ.”

“Yes, but you aren’t friends with me like you are with Elizabeth and Lynette.”

“Elizabeth and Lynette are my prayer partners. We are all reaching out to you to help you. We all care about you and want to see you become strong in the Lord.”

“Yes, but *I* want to be one of your prayer partners. I want to be your *close* friend like they are.”

I hardly knew what to say to her. On the one hand, I didn’t want to be insulting and say something like, “This isn’t third grade! Why are you talking to me like this?” I didn’t want to push her away because I saw her as a soul for whom Christ had died. I was daily praying to be used of Him to reach her.

Adrienne did not stop at just pushing me to be her “friend” in these strange and frequent conversations, but she also started hounding my friends about it. Elizabeth came to me and reported, “Shauna, it’s the weirdest thing! Adrienne asked me what it was about me that caused you to like me! She wanted to know what I would suggest she do so that you would want to be close friends with her the way you are with me. I think you need to keep your eye on her! I’ve never seen anything like this. It’s like she’s after you!”

Concerned and even a bit “creeped-out”, I agreed. But, I still reasoned that my Saviour even loved the “unlovely”, and so should I, by His Grace. I prayed for the Grace to do this, almost on a daily basis.

I would include Adrienne in outings and events, ever mindful that she was lonely and isolated, being single. I would pray for her, cook for her, and even take time to do needed projects for her. But I would not agree to become her prayer partner, as I was with Elizabeth and Lynette. And I would not agree to become her best friend. I shied away from these pushy requests with truthful excuses like, “I *do* pray for you Adrienne, but I already have many prayer partners. I pray with each of them for a couple of hours a week, and I just can’t take time from my family to add another prayer partner to my schedule.”

And when she pressed me for close friendship, I would reply, “Adrienne, let’s just let things be for now. None of my friendships developed by being pressured into them. You’re here, we have church together... Let’s just see if a close friendship happens naturally, over time. For now, I am offering spiritual mentorship. That needs to be enough right now.”

But as time went on, no matter how kindly I tried to say it, Adrienne seemed to interpret my polite rejections of her requests to be my friend and prayer partner as a personal rejection of *her*. The tension reached a climax point in the car one night. On my way to my parents’ home, Elizabeth and Adrienne rode along with me.

Distressed and tearful, Adrienne sobbed, “Why don’t you love me? I just don’t understand. You guys are supposed to be Christians! Why don’t you love me?”

Nothing affects a follower of Christ more deeply than the hint of hypocrisy! The guilt which comes with such an accusation is indescribable! After all, true discipleship to the Saviour is revealed, not by my claim, but by my love for others.

Quickly, defensively, I reacted, “Adrienne, I’m sorry you don’t feel that I love and care about you. But, I *do!*”

I *did* love my Saviour! I *had* been loving to her! I was distressed, wondering why she couldn’t see that love! Hadn’t I demonstrated Heavenly love towards her in multiple ways? Silently, I began mentally listing all the time, food, attention, and funds I had given to Adrienne. And it had all been done with the intent of demonstrating *agape* love towards her!

Frustration bubbled over. I felt that I had given more to Adrienne than anyone else, outside my immediate family. Yet, apparently it still wasn’t enough! She seemed not to perceive my actions as loving! And, although she did not say so in exact words, she even seemed to suggest that I wasn’t really a Christian!

Stung and guilt-ridden, I foolishly tried to point out to Adrienne that love was an “action word,” and that my actions had demonstrated love toward her.

Adrienne seemed unconvinced. She cried out, in soul-anguishing sobs. She wanted to be a part of our “group,” but we were “rejecting” her. She craved our love, but we were just being “nice,” while emotionally holding her off at arm’s length.

What could I say? In a way, she was right. Adrienne was always treated warmly and welcomed into our worship services. (Yes, we were sending “greeting cards and gift baskets” in response to an all-out enemy invasion.) But I held back from receiving her into my heart as deeply as I would if she were a close friend and co-worker for Christ.

Adrienne was plainly unsatisfied with a “surface” relationship.

Repeatedly she sought to be my close friend, expressing the desire to not be “left out” of the circle of my closest friends and prayer partners. “Why do you leave me out?” she would weep. “Haven’t I repented enough for my past?”

I had to acknowledge that I believed she had confessed every area of sin known to her. Who was I to suggest that she had not? Who was I to tell her that she needed more deliverance before she could cease to be a “ministry recipient” and begin her calling as a minister for the Most High? Was I rejecting her? Was I judgmentally prejudiced against her? I didn’t mean to be!

The spirits of darkness had unsuccessfully tried to form soul-ties between Adrienne and me for over a year by this point. But now, they were chipping a chink in my mental armor. Subtly, the seeds of guilt were planted deep within my soul. The Scriptural need to keep some distance, while reaching out to her in loving ministry, became blurred as time and again, Adrienne brought up my “unloving” treatment and “judgmental” attitude.

Alternating between scolding and entreating me, she expressed her deep hurt over my “rejection” of her friendship. Adrienne even accused me of betraying her trust by participating in a “judgmental” “witch-hunt” towards her.

This “witch-hunt” to which she referred was our Bible Fellowship Group’s guard against the sexual spirits which had supernaturally attacked our ladies—all of which we perceived were spirits attacking us through Adrienne. After each family went through a personal spiritual cleansing, we had worked together to help Adrienne find freedom from the forces of sexual spirits. This was attempted through much prayer and through an anointing for her deliverance from the spirits which we believed were not only still controlling her life, but were using her to gain access to others. Adrienne willingly participated in all of these steps. But, she balked at some of the precautions and boundaries set in place by our naturally worried husbands.

The husbands of the ladies who had been supernaturally attacked asked

their wives to avoid being alone with Adrienne. They also asked their spouses to limit their phone time with her. Two-hour phone calls trying to encourage and minister to Adrienne were not uncommon for me or the other ladies in our group. After many days of this, our husbands and families were suffering. So, the elders of our Bible Fellowship group requested that their wives establish boundaries in how much time was given to working with Adrienne.

Finally, because of the supernatural things which happened during her stays, several of the husbands no longer wanted Adrienne to be a guest in their homes. Our group was still united in wanting to reach out to her, but these were some of the new boundaries set in place out of the desire to minister to Adrienne while still protecting our homes and families.

Such limitations seemed unacceptable to Adrienne. To her they characterized a “witch-hunt.” In her viewpoint, which she voiced repeatedly, she should be treated no differently than any other lady in our group. Having tearfully repented after the group spoke to her of the supernatural attacks, she had been anointed and “delivered” from the sexual spirits. Cautionary boundaries, to her, seemed more like judgmental rejection.

At first, I explained my behavior, in light of Scriptural counsel. I assured her that I had not been rejecting her. Rather, I had not welcomed her into my core “sisterhood” of close friends because I had been guarding my soul against the spirits, which had only recently manifested in her.

But as she kept bringing the topic up again and again, I found myself grieving for the pain I had caused her. I began to wonder whether maybe I had been hypocritical. I was not perfect myself, yet I was ministering to others. I had witnessed her tearful repentance for her past sins. I had been with Adrienne in several of those prayer sessions. How could I suggest that she wasn’t spiritually “clean” enough to become my prayer partner—at the very least? Wasn’t I being judgmental toward Adrienne by withholding the “soul-keys” of my spiritual sisterhood?

Over the next few months, eventually guilt bludgeoned restraint right out of my heart, accusation by accusation. It hit at a weak point in my soul's foundation. Nothing was more worrisome to me—galvanizing action or motivating change—than the suggestion that maybe I wasn't a real Christian after all!

My enemy advanced upon me softly, but he carried a big stick—the club of guilt...



There is no force more powerful than relationships, for blessing or destruction in your life

There is no force more powerful than our relationships, for our blessing or destruction. This is because a relationship involves a soul-bond. This is why God instructs us to enter carefully and prayerfully into deep friendships, partnerships, and especially marriage. We must seek His guidance and blessing instead of running blindly into relationships, which bind our souls and impact our spiritual well-being:

“Don't be teamed with those who do not love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin? How can light live with darkness? And what harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a Christian be a partner with one who doesn't believe? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For you are God's temple, the home of the living God, and God has said of you, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.” That is why the Lord has said, “Leave them; separate yourselves from



...relationships... continued...

...them; don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you and be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters," (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ^{TLB}).



PERSONAL WARFARE REALITY CHECK: INVENTORY AND TEST YOUR SOUL-TIES

1) Because ungodly soul ties are such a force for destruction in a person's life, it is vitally important to identify them in order to ask God to spiritually sever them in your life. To begin this cleansing process, prayerfully examine the ways in which you have formed soul-bonds with people in the past. At this point, do not try to differentiate between soul-bonds which are good or destructive in your life. Only identify all ways in which you have (probably unknowingly) formed soul-bonds over your lifetime: *(Check all that apply)*

I have formed soul-bonds by participating in bonding rituals.

List the bonding rituals in which you have participated:

I have formed soul-bonds by becoming a close friend with someone.



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

I have formed soul-bonds by becoming a best friend to someone.

I have formed soul-bonds by entering into business partnerships or other partnerships with people.

I have formed soul-bonds by lusting after someone—via pornography, romance novels, or other: _____

I have formed soul-bonds by having sexual contact with someone outside of marriage. I have been with _____ (number) partner(s).

I have formed soul-bonds by getting married. I have been married _____ (number) time(s).

2) Identify the relationships in your life which have proven to produce blessed soul-bonds.

3) In what important ways have these relationships blessed you? As you consider this and list the ways your life has been impacted by these good relationships, take a moment to thank God for them. Also, pray that God will help you to be a blessing in each of their lives. List the key ways these godly soul-tie relationships have blessed you: _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

4) Identify the relationships in your life which are destructive soul-bonds.

5) In what key ways have these relationships weakened or negatively impacted you? _____

6) As you consider this negative impact upon your life, take a moment to ask God to forgive you for entering into these relationships rather than seeking His Leading in your relationship choices. Also, pray that God will help you to forgive your offenders and to cleanse you of any bitterness, resentment, or unforgiveness.



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

Commit to God that you will not blindly form relationships again. Recognizing the power of soul-bonds, purpose with Him that You will ask His blessing and guidance before entering into deep relationships, or engaging in any of the activities which produce soul-bonds. Finally, conclude the prayer by warfare praying against the ungodly soul-bonds. This will break these bonds, freeing you from the curses of darkness and demonic rights associated with them. To do this, pray the following:

Dear Heavenly Father, I now see the power of relationships in a way that I had not understood before. From this point on, I want to enter into relationships which are blessed of You. And, in the past, I recognize that I have stepped outside of Your Will in forming ungodly soul-bonds, never even stopping to ask You whether You wanted me to enter into these relationships in the first place.

I confess and repent for disobeying Your Instruction, plainly stated in 2 Corinthians 6:14–15. You told me not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. You warned me, in Your Word, that if I disregarded Your Will in this, that I would be opening a soul-door to darkness in my life. I confess my foolishness in blindly stepping into these dark soul-bonds and my rebellion against Your Leadership, demonstrated by the fact that I didn't even stop to pray about it first. Please forgive me and cleanse me of these things, as You have promised to do in 1 John 1:9.

Please also cleanse me of any bitterness, resent-



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

ment, or unforgiveness that I have toward the people in these dark relationships. Help me to forgive my offenders and to pray for those who spitefully have used me, as You have instructed me to do in Matthew 5:44. Also, Father, I now ask You to release me fully from all of the dark soul-bonds I have formed throughout my life. Because of Your Mercy demonstrated in the sacrifice of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, I also ask You to release me from all curses and demonic rights which the kingdom of hell has gained over me in these areas.

(Check the following ways ungodly soul-bonds have been formed in your life. Pray through all of the checked areas)

UNGODLY GROUPS - *I confess and repent for becoming joined with groups, which have allowed darkness into my life. I choose to fully remove myself from all fellowship with (list each ungodly group of which you have become a part) _____*

I will do my part to remove my membership from these groups and will destroy all clothing, books, materials, or memorabilia affiliated with them. Heavenly Father, please cleanse me from all vows with these groups. And please cleanse me from all darkness which has come into my life and home from affiliating with these groups. And now claiming the Heavenly Keys as you have instructed me to do in Mat-



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

thew 16:19, all spirits of darkness which have gained access to my life or family through these groups, in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I bind you and rebuke you. In His Name I command you to take your demons, rights, chains, bondage, strongholds, soul-ties, curses, and ground and leave me immediately and forever. In the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I command it.

UNGODLY FRIENDSHIPS - *I confess and repent for forming close friendships and relationships with people who are not choosing God and are walking in darkness. I recognize many of the ways in which spiritual darkness has gained access to my life and home through forming ungodly relationships with (list the name(s) of the person(s) with whom you have formed ungodly friendships) _____*

_____.

I will do my part to separate from these past relationships and will destroy all items or memorabilia affiliated with them. Heavenly Father, please cleanse me from all vows with these people. And please cleanse me from all darkness which has come into my life and home from affiliating with these people. I now claim the Heavenly Keys as you have instructed me to do in Matthew 16:19. All spirits of darkness which have gained access to my life or family through my dark soul-bonds with these people,



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I bind you and rebuke you. In His Name I command you to take your demons, rights, chains, bondage, strongholds, soul-ties, curses, and ground and leave me immediately and forever. In the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I command it.

UNGODLY PARTNERSHIPS - *I confess and repent for forming business partnership(s) or other partnerships with people who are not choosing God and are walking in darkness. I recognize many of the ways in which spiritual darkness has gained access to my life and home through forming ungodly partnerships with (list the name(s) of the person(s) with whom you have formed ungodly partnerships) _____*

_____.

I will do my part to remove myself from these partnerships. Heavenly Father, please cleanse me from all vows with these partnerships. And please cleanse me from all darkness which has come into my life and home from affiliating with these partners. And now claiming the Heavenly Keys as you have instructed me to do in Matthew 16:19, all spirits of darkness which have gained access to my life or family through these partnerships, in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I bind you and rebuke you.

In His Name I command you to take your demons, rights, chains, bondage, strongholds, soul-ties, curses, and ground and leave me im-



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

mediately and forever. In the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I command it.

LUST, FORNICATION, and/or PORNOGRAPHY - *I confess and repent for my sin in becoming involved with lust, fornication, and/or pornography. I recognize many of the ways in which spiritual darkness has gained access to my life and home through forming these ungodly soul-bonds. I now ask You to sever the soul-bonds between me and (list the name(s) of the person(s) (other than your spouse, if married) with whom you have had sexual involvement) _____*

____. *I also ask you to cleanse me from all lust and impure thoughts from my past involvement with (check all that apply and state all that apply in your prayer)*

- Pornography
- Romance Novels
- Other: _____

I will do my part to make no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14) by purposing not to put myself in lustful situations. I will destroy all movies or materials through which I have lusted. And I will make myself accountable in my computer and Internet use, taking all necessary steps to ensure that I close the doorways of accessibility in every way that I am able. I



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

purpose to do this, even to the point of inconveniencing myself, because I choose freedom and victory more than pride and convenience.

Heavenly Father, please cleanse me from all vows with these people or objects of lust. And please cleanse me from all darkness which has come into my life and home from engaging in these impure practices. And now claiming the Heavenly Keys as you have instructed me to do in Matthew 16:19, all spirits of darkness which have gained access to my life or family through these lustful practices, in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I bind you and rebuke you. In His Name I command you to take your demons, rights, chains, bondage, strongholds, soul-ties, curses, and ground and leave me immediately and forever. In the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I command it.

PRIOR MARRIAGE(S) - *I recognize that it is Your Plan for me to be married once and for all. I confess and repent for not following Your Plan in being married to the one and only spouse which You had for me. I recognize that I stepped outside of Your Will and Leadership, choosing to marry foolishly and bringing ungodly soul-bonds into my life as a result. I now ask You to sever the soul-bonds between me and (list the name(s) of your prior spouse(s)*



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

Heavenly Father, please cleanse me from all vows with these marriages. And please cleanse me from all darkness which has come into my life and home from these prior marriages. And now claiming the Heavenly Keys as You have instructed me to do in Matthew 16:19, all spirits of darkness which have gained access to my life or family through these prior marriages, in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I bind you and rebuke you. In His Name I command you to take your demons, rights, chains, bondage, strongholds, soul-ties, curses, and ground and leave me immediately and forever. In the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ I command it.

In conclusion, Heavenly Father, I claim Your Promise and enabling Power to do in my life what You have said in 2 Corinthians 6:14–18. From this point onward, please help me to never again choose to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers nor fellowship with unrighteousness. Please point it out to me plainly, if I am ever again tempted to have communion with darkness. I am thankful that You have called me to be Your holy Temple. And I invite You, right now, to dwell fully in me. Please be my God and I will be Your child choosing, by Your Grace, to never again touch the unclean thing by forming soul-bonds outside of Your Will and Direction. Thank You! In Jesus Name, I ask it, Amen.





CHAPTER FOUR

Smashing Your Safeguards

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 29:2

By the spring of 2012, the seeds of self-doubt and guilt matured and bore fruit. But, there was more than guilt to erode my emotional “footing.” The intensity of events from that spring produced such inner turmoil, that I felt as if the fabric of my life was tearing apart.

Trouble began with the termination of our home lease. Just two weeks from our annual spring campmeeting—which was to be immediately followed by a month-long mission trip and our homeschool graduation—we received word that our landlords would be moving back into our (their) house! After two years of happily leasing, we were unexpectedly losing our home. And it couldn’t have happened at a worse time! We had just thirty days to find a new place and move, during one of the most intense periods of our lives.

Pressured and exhausted, we prepared for our upcoming campmeeting, continued our daily homeschool program, wrote sermons, collected materials needed for our mission trip, and planned our high school graduation program (our son was graduating just days after returning

from the mission trip)—all while trying to find and move into a new home!

In this crescendo of intensity, my relationship with my husband became increasingly strained. It seemed that nothing was going right, and our ability to cope with the stress was seriously hampered. But what I didn't realize at the time was that the more I grew to resent my husband's flaws, the more I removed myself from him and from his spiritual leadership in my life and home. Consequently, the more I rejected his spiritual leadership over our home, the more I separated myself from being under God-given authority, and the more like a spiritual "island" I became.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:1-2

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...

1 Samuel 15:23

But Scripture tells us that no one is an "island". Every man, woman and child is lovingly placed, by God, under a structure of human authority (Romans 13:1–2). Remaining submitted in this structure of God-ordained human authority is a powerful protection and a spiritual safeguard. Removing oneself from being under this structure of authority is called "rebellion" in the Bible.

Rebellion against God-ordained authority effectively removes God's Protection from our lives. By it, we are left exposed,

an easy prey for satanic attack. In fact, the only other thing which so completely exposes us to the onslaught of spiritual darkness is involvement in witchcraft. Witchcraft is something so evil that we can quickly discern how its practice opens the floodgates of demonic bondage and spiritual darkness. But what most Christians don't realize is that God equates rebellion with witchcraft, as Scripture states in 1 Samuel 15:23. Rebellion and witchcraft are *equally* destructive.



Why rebellion and witchcraft both bring an equal amount of demonic rights and curses into our lives

Scripture describes Satan as a “roaring lion” going about looking for weaknesses and areas of vulnerability in us, so that he may destroy us (1 Peter 5:8). If he is to be successful in his attack, He must effectively remove us from being under the “Wings” of the Almighty.

*Hide me under the shadow of Thy Wings,
Psalm 17:8.*

*Trust under the shadow of Thy Wings, Psalm
36:7.*

*The shadow of Thy Wings is my refuge, Psalm
57:1.*

God is much too strong for Satan to drag us out from under His Protective Wings. But if he can tempt us to remove ourselves from God’s Protection—even inspiring us to feel “righteous” and “justified” in so doing—the enemy can steal our anointing and render us weak and vulnerable.

God’s Protection is a gift which He longs to give to each of His children. The Bible reveals the key to having His guidance and protection continually. The key is to keep ourselves—by choice—subject to our human authorities. Every person, no matter one’s age or gender, has God-ordained “higher powers” which are over him/her.

Let every man be subject unto the higher powers, For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God, Romans 13:1.



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

God intends for humans to hold positions of authority under His Headship. We all fit into this authority structure somewhere. This has been the case since Creation. In the Beginning, God created mankind in His image and told our first parents to have dominion over the earth. This was the first time God delegated authority to man.

So God created man in His own Image... male and female... And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply... and have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth, Genesis 1:27–28.

The idea of being subject under another human authority is becoming an increasingly offensive idea, in our current society. We like being “islands”, accountable to no one and “empowered” to make our own decisions! “After all,” we tell ourselves, “It’s my life!” But is it really? This common belief is opposite of what the Scriptures tell us. When we come to God, one of the first things we need to accept is His Ownership of us. We are His children. He is our Heavenly Father, Creator, and King. His Will is to be done in the earth of our hearts and homes, as it is in Heaven. Being fully submitted to God’s Authority is the first key to having the power to resist and defeat the enemy of souls!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you, James 4:7.

But submitting ourselves to God doesn’t just place us directly under His Headship—with Him and Him alone over us. God also established a “chain of command” in human authority under Him which He expects His children to respect and submit under. There are Heaven-ordained authority structures over every person. In fact, often, we are both in authority over someone, while also being under someone else’s authority.



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

Any positions of authority, which others hold in our lives, are allowed by God. Submission to the human authorities in our lives is submission to God. And we cannot abide under Heaven's protective Wings (or umbrella) unless we remain under the authority structure which God established (see the diagram on the following page).

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation... Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake, Romans 13:1-5.

Submission to authority? The whole idea repels us! Right? Now, before anyone panics and throws this book away in disgust, it should be pointed out here that the role of the human authority figure is very different from God's Perspective than it is from ours. From the human perspective, the leader is the one who is at the "top of the food chain," so-to-speak. This is the person who gets to boss everyone else around. But, this isn't God's view of authority. A godly authority figure will be a gentle servant, like our Saviour, as it says in Mark 10:44 "And whosoever of you will be the chiefest (highest authority), shall be servant of all." In fact, of all people, persons in areas of leadership also have the highest responsibility before God.

LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENT - Civil authorities are to govern those under them by the Commands of God. This is why they were commanded to write out a personal copy of God's Law, read it every day, and govern by its teachings (Deut. 17:18-19). The civil leaders

Rebellion Against God-Given Authority Exposes Us to Satan



Children are under God's Protection while they remain submitted to their parents' authority in the home (Colossians 3:20).

BLESSED BY GOD

It is said that holding onto anger and bitterness against those who have done us wrong is like swallowing poison while hoping our offender will die of it. Similarly, rebellion against our human authorities (*which we often justify because we see their character flaws and think they don't deserve our respect*) brings destruction and spiritual curses upon our lives.

ISLAND
of Accountability to No One
Rebellion against Heaven-given authority removes us from being under God's Protection (Isaiah 30:1).

EXPOSED TO SATANIC DESTRUCTION



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

...who obeyed this prospered—like David—while the governmental figures who rebelled against God were ultimately removed from office—like the Pharaoh who drowned in the Red Sea after the Exodus.

LEADERSHIP IN THE WORKPLACE - *Bosses are to lead their employees with courtesy, respect and regard for their needs. And when it comes time for the paycheck to be issued to each employee, if the company is financially suffering and cannot afford to pay, the employer is to go without—rather than failing to pay his employees on the expected payday (Deut. 24:14–15).*

LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH - *Pastors and teachers within the Body of Christ have the awesome responsibility of never speaking or doing their own will in leadership. They are to make sure that the words they speak are from God, for He will call them into account for the doctrines they have taught in His Name (Jer. 23:1–2).*

LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME - *Husbands are not to “lord” their leadership over their wives, but are to love them and give themselves for them as Christ loved and gave Himself for the Church (Ephesians 5:25). Fathers are not to taunt and brutalize the children under their authority, but are to be tender and loving examples to them, leading them in righteousness (Colossians 3:21).*



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

• *Having read this compelling list of requirements for godly leadership, most will find their human authority figures to be sadly lacking.*

- Where can one find such a godly government where the leaders follow the principles of Scripture and make and enforce laws according to the Law of God? It doesn't exist!

- Where can one find such a righteous employer that all company policy, payment and attitudes in the leadership are always according to the Will and Ways of God? There isn't one!

- Where can one find such a perfect church that all the pastors and teachers always only speak the Words of God and never slip into letting self have the heart-throne for even a moment? Even the good ones have some slip-ups now and again. A totally perfect church with 100% righteous leaders isn't out there!

- Where can one find such a flawless home where the saintly husband always loves his wife with the same purity, selflessness, and self-control with which Christ loves His Church? Never does the husband ever demonstrate ungodly fruit, but always operates under the unction of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)—24/7. Some come closer to this high calling than do others, but the reality is that such a husband doesn't exist!

- Where can one find such a loving father or mother who never punishes his/her children in rage, but always disciplines in love? Never does a critical spirit arise. Never is the parent too tired, too sick, too



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

...provoked, or too busy to always train and govern the children with consistent, Christ-like parenting—perfectly reflecting the model of the Heavenly Father, Who is our perfect Parent. Such a parent cannot be found!

So, are we off the hook then? Certainly we cannot be expected to remain submitted under authority when our human authorities demonstrate ungodly attitudes and behaviors! In this way, we often justify a spirit of rebellion. That human authority doesn't deserve our respect! We'll submit to authority, when our authorities deserve such submission! Right?

1 Peter 2:13–14 instructs us to obey our human authorities, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for God’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but, when the wicked rule, the people mourn,” (Proverbs 29:2). The Bible makes no provision for God’s children to only submit to “good” and kind leaders. We are to submit to the gentle and froward “masters” with equal obedience, as the Bible says in 1 Peter 2:18.

Submission under godly authority isn't rendered because the authority figure deserves it. It is to be rendered because God has instructed us to do it. And whether or not the person in authority is acting in a way that merits respect, we are still to respect their position of authority in our lives. Consider the following biblical examples:

- When Paul spoke the true Word of God before the Jewish Council, the high priest was so demonically inspired that he ordered someone to slap Paul across the



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

...face for speaking God's Word in his presence. His face still stinging from the unrighteous slap, Paul verbally let the high priest have it—not realizing that the man was the high priest. Someone rebuked Paul, informing him that this man was the high priest. Instantly Paul apologized for speaking harshly to the man (even though his words had been true), demonstrating respect for the position of high priest, even though the man himself was not acting in a respectable manner. The story is found in Acts 23:1–5, as follows:

The high priest Ananias ordered those standing beside Paul to strike him in the mouth.

Then Paul said to him, “God is about to strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit and judge me according to the Law, yet disobey the Law by ordering that I be struck.”

Those standing near him asked, “You dare to insult God's high priest?”

Paul replied, “Brothers, I wasn't aware that he was the high priest. It is written, You will not speak evil about a ruler of your people.” (Acts 23:1–5 ^{CEB})

- The Prophet Samuel was instructed by God to anoint Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was chosen by God because he was a very godly young man. Later in life, however, king Saul allowed demonic spirits to control him. Then the formerly good king of Israel became a demon-possessed/oppressed monarch (1 Samuel 19:9–10). Because of Saul's spiritual darkness...



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

...Samuel was instructed to anoint David—not of Saul’s lineage—to be the second king of Israel. When Saul learned that God had chosen David to rule after him, he repeatedly tried to hunt down and kill David. In spite of this, when opportunity to harm king Saul presented itself, David refused to lift his hand against “the Lord’s anointed.” David realized that God had put Saul in his position as king and God would remove Saul, when He was ready to do so. Until then, David remained respectful and submitted to him as king.

The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee (king Saul) into my (David’s) hand today, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD’S anointed, 1 Samuel 26:23.

Choosing not to submit under our Heaven-given, human authorities is called rebellion. Rebellion is a serious offense before God. As we have already seen, it is biblically compared to witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). Why is rebellion so serious to God that He equates it with witchcraft?

When we rebel against our human authority(ies), we step out from under God. In so doing, we place ourselves out from under God’s protective care and expose ourselves directly to the enemy’s destruction.

Submission under godly authority is a living demonstration of faith. The connection between submission under the Heaven-appointed “chain of command” and living faith is revealed in the Bible story of the centurion with the sick servant (Matthew 8:5–13).

- The centurion asked Jesus to heal his sick servant



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

...without coming to his home, but by simply commanding the sickness to leave him. He felt unworthy for Jesus to come to his home. He then explained the human chain of command and revealed his own understanding of submission under the authority by stating that his soldiers obeyed his orders even if he was not present. Within this framework of understanding, the centurion asked Christ to simply say the Word, and his servant would be healed. This Roman centurion understood that God exercises His power and protection, through a chain of command, just as did the government of Rome. Jesus was amazed at the man's comprehension of godly authority, exclaiming that this man's understanding of Heaven's chain of command demonstrated great faith.

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said... I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel, Matthew 8:10.

Submission under godly authority is not given because the human authority is a perfect leader. Rather, it is a choice to demonstrate faith in our perfect God. The one who submits must choose to do so (Joshua 24:15). The word "submission" is important to understand. In 1 Peter 2:13, the Greek word "submit" is:

ὑποτάσσω (hoop-ot-as'-so)

It is used in the middle voice, which indicates that the one doing the submitting participates both in the action (submission) and in the results of the action (obedience).

Submission also carries the military connotation of "lining up under." This concept can be seen in our military today. Our involvement in the military is voluntary, but once we choose



...rebellion and witchcraft... continued...

to enlist, or “line up under” that authority, there are binding obligations upon us; and we must obey. By choosing to line up under Heaven-ordained authority, it shows that we understand several important Biblical principles:

- *God is the supreme Ruler over all - 1 Timothy 6:15.*
- *God ordained all human authority - Romans 13:1.*
- *God is the One who establishes those in authority over us and influences their decisions in response to prayer - Proverbs 21:1.*
- *God doesn't force us to get under His Authority or the authority of those He establishes - Joshua 24:15.*
- *God uses these powers and authorities to work His Will.*
- *If we remain submitted under our human authorities, at all times—praying for God's Will to be done—He will either convert the difficult authority figure through us, or He will remove the authority figure entirely if they will not submit to Him.*
- *Submission under human authority does not involve obeying unrighteous commands. In such cases, one may remain submitted by respectfully declining—as did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo (Daniel Chapter 3). It is important to say “no” to an unrighteous command while still displaying respect for the leader and keeping ourselves under Heaven-appointed authority.*



Actually, rebellion and witchcraft bring *the same* amount of demonic rights and curses into our lives and homes! Rebellion is biblically defined as “insurrection” or revolt (in attitudes or actions) against our human authority figures (Ezra 4:19). The word “insurrection” from this verse includes “mutiny”, “defiance”, “resistance”, “stubbornness” and “insubordination”. These are big and obvious issues. But rebellion doesn’t start out big and obvious. It usually creeps into our hearts quietly—unnoticed even. In fact, at least in its earliest stages, those who are in rebellion rarely realize it. This is because our rebellious attitudes and behaviors seem completely justified by the character flaws of our human authority figures. But, whether we mentally justify it or not, indulging any rebellion still smashes our spiritual safeguards. Yet, it is such a misunderstood concept that it is necessary to restore the Scriptural perspective.

Because I was unaware of the spiritual warfare importance of remaining under God’s authority structure, I allowed the enemy to amplify my husband’s faults in my eyes. The more stressful our situation became—and there seemed to be stress from every direction in our lives—the more sharply Mark spoke to me, and the more distant I withdrew from him.

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Soon I was doing my ministry tasks with less and less of my husband’s input. I was reaching out to my lady friends more, telling them the deeper issues of my heart while keeping them from my husband.

In fact, resenting his character deficiencies, I didn’t respect his leadership in our ministry or home at all. I just co-existed with him. Yet, it all went unnoticed amidst the pressures and the flurry of activities. But failing to recognize the early stages of rebellion in my heart, I didn’t discern my danger.

The more I withdrew from being under my husband’s leadership and from functioning as his partner in our marriage team, the more vulnerable I became to the coming attack of the enemy. Satan was quietly

smashing my safeguards, yet I didn't even know it. I only attributed my growing marital distance to exhaustion and stress.

Our Fall campmeeting came and went. Somehow amidst the dizzying schedule, God was glorified and the retreat was a blessing to many. Friends helped us take down the retreat equipment and clean up the rented meeting-hall facility. Then, they lovingly assisted us—for two days we feverishly finished packing our home and loading our belongings into storage. As the last wall was painted and the final box carried out, I looked longingly at our former home and wondered what our future would hold.

Never before had I realized how fundamental to my emotional well-being was having a place to call home. Somewhere, in the back of my mind niggled the awareness that God was testing me in this experience. He wanted me to trust Him. I knew that He was trustworthy and would provide for our needs just as He'd promised.

Yet, becoming homeless left me feeling uncomfortable, unsettled, and deeply unfulfilled amidst a whirlwind of activity as turbulent as a tornado. It was our last night in our old home. Exhausted, we slept on the floor surrounded by our suitcases. But there was no time to mourn the loss, or do more than send up a quick prayer for the future. Our flight overseas departed early the next morning.

Looking back at that intense two-month period, I praise God to say that by His Divine intervention, every appointment was prayerfully met and every sermon powerfully delivered. We were sustained on angel wings and energy fumes. Yet, by God's Grace, our Father was glorified and lives were touched for Heaven.

With the end of the season came a quieter pace. School was out, graduation had commenced, and there were no imminent retreats or mission trips to occupy us. The only remaining trace of that tumultuous period was our continued search for a home. But God had blessed, and we had a roof over our heads from which to carry on our house-hunting quest. Sympathetic to our trial, some dear friends had offered us a temporary place to stay in an unoccupied home which they were preparing to sell.

I have very little memory of any significant involvement with Adrienne throughout this turbulent spring. She attended the retreat, aided with the graduation preparation, and even had been part of the “home-team” who helped us clean and pack up before our departure. But I believe it wasn’t until early summer when the “dust” finally started to settle, that Adrienne began to significantly impact my life.

“Rrrring!” the telephone called me out of my reverie with insistent tones.

Drying the soapy dishwater off my hands, I picked up the handset. I answered in our typical, ministry greeting.

“Hi, Shauna,” my mother’s voice greeted me.

Beginning like any other phone call with a loved one, we exchanged pleasantries and family “news” for a few minutes. There was no hint of the momentous, nor suggestion of significance in this contact. Yet, looking back on it now, I’d have to say that this conversation fueled and enabled the changes about to take place in my relationship with Adrienne.

“While you were on your mission trip, some big things were happening in my life, also,” my mom began.

“What’s been up with you?” I sensed we were about to go much deeper than mundane, “newsy” tidbits.

“Adrienne came over and shared a life-changing concept with me. It’s called ‘Soul-Prosperity’ and it’s the idea of burying your personal lies and living in the truth,” she paused. “It’s really changed my life.”

Comparatively recalling my mother’s “needy” tendencies prior to our mission trip, and the “new” more supportive and “whole” woman I had found when I returned, I had to mentally admit that something big must have happened in her life.

A few days after we returned from overseas, Adrienne had called and

mentioned working with my mother. “I wanted to help you and your mom have a better relationship,” she had explained. I had been somewhat skeptical, in hearing all the dramatic changes Adrienne said had taken place in my mother’s soul.

Listening to my mother now, my words to Adrienne flashed back before my memory, “Well, Adrienne, that’s great! And if everything is really healed... Wow! But, I guess I’ll just have to wait and see... I hope you’re right!” What I meant was, “I’ll believe it when I see it.” There could be no denying that I was now seeing it.

Over the next thirty minutes or so my mother explained some of the deep, internal lies, which had controlled her life. There were lies like: “God’s love and promises are for everyone but me,” and “God could have used me in more powerful ways if I’d been born differently, I’ll just have to serve God in some ‘lesser’ way.”

My mother continued, “These false internal beliefs deeply affected my relationship with God and have caused me to have serious areas of insecurity.” Her tone, which had been sober throughout this retelling, rose with a joyful lilt as she added, “But, Adrienne has truly helped and encouraged me in burying these lies and replacing them with Scriptural truths.”

As I listened to my mother further explain the miraculous transformation in her soul, my own heart rejoiced! The insecurities were gone from my mom, which used to cause abrasive conflict between us. I was amazed! Then, in the blink of an eye, it hit me.

“You know, Shauna, you’ve been totally wrong about Adrienne. Sure she came to us with demons in her life. But, she’s been cleansed of that! That’s not who she is now.”

I sucked in my breath, sensing where this conversation was going.

For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

1 Timothy 2:13–14

“One of the most fundamental things you and Mark teach is that people can be changed by the Saviour’s Power. Well, don’t you believe your own teaching?”

“Of course, I believe people can be changed...”

She cut me off, not unkindly, but she was pressing her point home. “Shauna, we all have areas of sin in our pasts. But God still puts us to use when we’ve been forgiven and cleansed. You need to get over this prejudice you’ve had toward Adrienne. God has a powerful calling for her. And because you have a judgmental attitude toward her past, you are standing in God’s way, preventing Him from fully using her to minister to others.”

She paused a moment, then continued, “God used Adrienne to bless me and help me find healing in my soul that I have needed for years. Who she is today is not who she used to be. You need to stop judging her for her past. You may well be destroying her ministry.”

I was stunned into silence, guilt rushing over me in waves. Into the jumble of my racing thoughts several words were emblazoned, as if branded there with molten steel, “You are standing in God’s way!”

“Wow, Mom!” I fumbled for words. “I am sorry for that. I can see that God has used her to help you. And I praise God for the changes I can see in your life. I’ll pray to know exactly what to say and do to make things right with Adrienne.”

One may wonder how it is possible for a practicing witch to “help” someone. Looking back on it now, and all that I’ve learned since then, I’d have to say that I’ve noticed how Satan works a lot like an Acupuncture therapist. The “needles” of his rights and presence aren’t removed, they’re merely adjusted. It wasn’t that Adrienne actually helped my mom find freedom in Christ, rather she and her spirits did a spiritual “adjustment”, which made my mother appear to improve, while actually giving Satan more rights in her life at the same time. No one knows the Bible better than Satan. But, when he uses it, he twists it.

Although I was unable to articulate it at that time, truly with that phone call, a dramatic change came in my thinking toward Adrienne. She was no longer a “ministry project.” In my eyes, she had become a spiritual leader who could not only receive ministry, but could also be used of God to minister to others.

Looking back at this experience and how dramatically my thinking changed from this point on, I see striking similarities to the story of Adam and Eve. Unlike my husband and me, they were perfect. They shared everything together in the quintessential demonstration of a healthy marriage relationship. Yet, one day, Eve strayed from Adam’s leadership in her life.

Scripture tells us that the devil shape-shifted and took the form of a beautiful serpent. He placed himself in the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He then managed to so captivate and entrance Eve that she listened to him and made the decision to eat the forbidden fruit—all without considering her husband’s counsel or spiritual headship.

Would the story have turned out differently if Eve had remained under her husband’s spiritual leadership of their home, asking his input about the serpent’s invitation? Most assuredly it would have turned out differently! How can we be certain of this? 1 Timothy 2:13–14 tells us that Adam was *not* deceived. He *knew* that eating the forbidden fruit would bring death!

One might naturally wonder why Adam ate the forbidden fruit when Eve offered it to him. As Paul wrote, it wasn’t because he was deceived into believing the serpent’s story was true. Since Eve had not consulted him *before* making the decision to eat the serpent’s fruit, Adam believed that it was now too late. Eve would surely die. Adam ate the fruit because he chose Eve above all. If Eve would die, he would share her fate rather than face the future without her by his side.

Like Eve, I too was acting like a spiritual island. If I had not allowed the seeds of resentment towards my husband to grow in my heart producing marital estrangement, I would have spoken to him about this phone

call before allowing it to fester to the point of altering my thinking. I would have prayerfully sought Mark's perspective, telling him what I was thinking and coming to believe about Adrienne. Had I done this, I believe I would have been protected from later opening myself up to fellowship with darkness.

Throughout our entire contact with Adrienne, Mark was never deceived about her. True, he didn't realize she was a player in a hellish game, sent to us by design and with the intent to destroy our home and ministry. But, he *did* see the darkness in her, from beginning to end. Never was my husband deceived into thinking that Adrienne was free and clear of her former spiritual bondage and ties to darkness.

In retrospect, I wish that I had come to my husband, honoring him as the priest of our home and leader of our ministry. But unbeknownst even to me, I was no longer respecting his headship in my life. I had begun to operate like a spiritual island, believing myself to be accountable to no one but God. What a rebellious deception that proved to be! For when we think ourselves to be accountable to no one, but God, we are not in submission to God either!

Having rebelliously removed ourselves from operating under God's ordained command-structure of human authority, we function as spiritual islands, completely clueless that our spiritual safeguards have been smashed! In so doing, we become dangerously vulnerable to the onslaught of the enemy.

Having survived the extreme hellish attacks revealed in this book, my husband and I have learned many spiritual warfare principles—the hard way! We half-jokingly say that everything God has taught us we learned “in the trenches”—since soldiers seek cover in trenches, in the heat of the battle.

Two of the most vital warfare safeguards we learned were the importance of functioning within God's chain of command and the power of two witnesses. But without operating within God's protective chain of command and without employing the power of the two witnesses, I was able to be deceived. As I have explained, although I wouldn't have been

able to put it into words at the time, that phone call with my mother—who had herself been deceived—sparked a dramatic change in how I perceived Adrienne. In my viewpoint, she was no longer a person in spiritual darkness who needed help, prayer and ministry. I now saw Adrienne as a freed and transformed spiritual leader who had been appointed by God to perform a special and unique ministry.

With this dramatic shift in viewpoint, Adrienne was no longer held at my emotional arm's length, a casual friend, who merely attended the same Bible Fellowship group. My mental shield was dropped and I began to view her as both my spiritual sister and a close friend. And from within this terrible deception, I was now open to possibilities that were out of this world...



How to discern the Will of God

God has given an effective way to confirm whether a plan, idea, or teaching is from Him. When we use it properly—as the Bible instructs—God will protect us from falling prey to satanic deception 100% of the time! I call this spiritual safeguard the Power of Two Witnesses. This is the principle that God's Word and Truth are always established (confirmed) by the testimony of at least two (or three) witnesses.

...In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established, Matthew 18:16.

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin... At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established, Deuteronomy 19:15.

This principle means that when we believe we've received a message from the Lord, we may be totally certain by prayer...



discern the Will of God... continued...

fully seeking the verification of 2–3 witnesses. Consider these two, Scriptural examples:

GIDEON—Gideon understood this principle. So, when an angel which claimed to be from Heaven—told him that it was God’s Will for the farmer to lay aside all he knew and take up military command, leading Israel to victory against the Midianites, Gideon sought confirmation that this call was indeed from God. He laid out a fleece twice (two witnesses), praying once that the fleece would be dry from the overnight dew—while the surrounding ground was wet—and once that the fleece would be wet from the overnight dew—while the surrounding ground was dry. Gideon invoked the Power of Two Witnesses because he understood this was God’s Way of establishing anything. And because it is God’s Way to verify a matter, He honored Gideon’s fleece test, confirming His Call by two witnesses (Judges 6:36–40).

JOSEPH—In the time of Joseph, 430 years before Israel’s Exodus story, Pharaoh was given two dreams. In one he was shown seven fat and healthy cows who were completely devoured by seven thin and emaciated cows. In the other, Pharaoh was shown seven plump and healthy ears of corn which were completely devoured by seven blasted and sickly ears of corn. Joseph explained the meaning of the dreams to Pharaoh. He told the king of Egypt that both dreams had the same meaning. They were prophetic, foretelling seven years of plenty, which would be followed by seven years of terrible famine. Joseph also explained why God gave Pharaoh two dreams with the same message. God gave Pharaoh the Power of Two Witnesses, confirming to him that indeed this was a prophetic warning sent from Heaven:

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established



...discern the Will of God... continued...

*by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass,
Genesis 41:32.*

In a Christian marriage, the Power of Two Witnesses may be easily used. When one spouse believes that he or she has a calling or message from God, it should be confirmed by praying that God will show the other spouse the same message. Having said marital vows, a couple covenants to walking through the rest of their lives together. The next step Heaven would ordain the couple to take is confirmed when both spouses pray and come to an agreement about it.

*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?
Amos 3:3*

My failure to use this powerful safeguard was a big factor in paving the way for the destructive story you are about to read in the pages of this book. Recognizing this, my husband and I now have the policy that anytime one of us is ready to make a decision on something, believing it to be God's Leading in our lives; we pray and seek the confirmation of the other spouse. Only when we are both convicted on a matter do we proceed. God has always honored this method of confirmation, for He established it and gave it in His Word.

Some may wonder why a husband needs to seek the confirmation of prayerful agreement with his wife. Since the husband is the "head" and is spiritually the higher authority of the home, can he not be blessed in making a decision even when it without his wife's agreement? As my husband likes to say, "the husband is the head of the house, but the wife is the neck - and the neck turns the head."

So often, when folks work to get their lives and homes operating under godly authority, they misunderstand the husband's



...discern the Will of God... continued...

and wife's roles. A "submitted" wife is often wrongly viewed as the proverbial "bare-foot and pregnant" woman, whose authority is only slightly greater than the children. But God created the woman from the rib bone of the man. She is at his side, not under his feet or over his head.

- The quintessential godly wife is described in Proverbs 31:10-31. The woman described in this passage is what every Christian wife should aspire to become. But is she weak, dominated, and nearly brainless? Not at all! If a man is the king of his house, she is his queen. She is wise, trusted by her husband, astute in business, and is a powerful force for righteousness in her home and in society. Her husband relies upon her as life-partner. The two of them together are a powerful team. Together, they are safeguarded by prayerfully choosing to always come to every major decision as a unified team. This practice will bless the home through the Power of Two Witnesses, as God intended.

Two keys to effectively using the Power of Two Witnesses are:

- 1. God will not speak counter to His Word. If Scripture gives an answer regarding a belief or decision to be made, one needs only to pray and seek Two Witnesses if the subject is not already clearly laid out in His written Word. The Bible is the ultimate expression of God's Will. So, a couple should not be praying about whether to follow something clearly given in the Word. And any impression or message which goes against the Bible will never be from God.*
- 2. The principle of Two Witnesses should be used when studying the Bible as well. Always look for 2-3 Scriptures, minimum, to confirm any doctrinal interpretation. Scripture must always interpret Scripture.*





PERSONAL WARFARE REALITY CHECK: IMPROVE YOUR PERSONAL SUBMISSION FACTOR

1) Every person is placed, by God, within a framework of human authority. Remaining submitted under this God-ordained Chain of Command demonstrates faith and is a vital safeguard of spiritual protection against the enemy. What about you?

- I have been submitted under my God-given human authority.
- I have been operating without accountability to anyone—acting as a spiritual “island”.

2) Before you can fully function under God’s ordained Chain of Command, it is very important to rightly identify the human authorities God has placed in your life. Identify them on the list below: *(Check all that apply)*

- Government and civil authorities
- Boss(es) and work-place supervisors
- Pastor(s) and spiritual leaders within my church
- Husband
- Parent
- Other: _____

3) **SUBMISSION TEST** - Jesus said that the Roman centurion demonstrated “great faith” by his awareness of how God uses the authority command structure. Test your faith by identifying godly submission in the list below: *(Check all that apply—answers are on pages 116-117)*

- When a leader gives an unrighteous command, it is appropriate to treat him/her as my equal and give him/her a



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

scathing verbal rebuke.

- If a leader wishes to be respected, the leader must earn that respect.
 - Respect for leadership is to be given, whether or not a leader deserves it. I should respect the person's position, even when I cannot respect the person's attitudes or actions.
 - Submission under godly authority means that I must always obey every command my authority(ies) give.
 - All authorities, in my life, are placed there by God. When conflict arises, I should pray, remain submitted, and know that God will either use me as a witness to His Glory, or He will use the difficulty to perfect my character.
 - If a leader is going against the Will of God, by my prayer and continued godly submission, God will either convert the leader, or He will ultimately remove this leader from my life.
 - Submission under authority is submission under God.
 - I am submitted only to God. Where people are concerned, I am accountable to no one.
 - When a leader gives a command that goes against the Laws of God, I can still remain submitted under God and his/her authority by respectfully saying "no" and by refraining from demonstrating defiance.
- 4) Take a moment to pray and evaluate your personal level of submission under each God-ordained authority figure, in your life. *(These authority figures are those you have identified in question number 2).*



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

What attitudes and behaviors do you demonstrate, which show rebellion? What attitudes and behaviors do you demonstrate, which show proper submission under God-ordained authority?

HOW SUBMITTED ARE YOU TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES?

- What attitudes do you usually demonstrate towards civil authorities and government leaders? _____

- Are there some laws, rules and regulations made by these leaders which you choose to disregard? No Yes
- if yes, which laws do you disregard? _____

- If you answered “yes” on the prior page, why do you disregard these laws? Is it because these civil laws go against the Laws of God?

No - if no, what does disregarding these civil laws say about your level of submission to the Authority of God, in your life? _____

Yes - if yes, do you maintain a respectful attitude while saying “no” to these commands? _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- On a scale of 1-8 (*with 1 being perfectly submitted and 8 being totally rebellious*), rate your submission/rebellion level towards your civil authorities and government leaders:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- Take a moment to pray before answering this next question. Then answer it in the way you believe God is leading you to respond. Are there ways that God wants you to improve regarding submitting to government leaders and civil authorities? No Yes

- if yes, what can you do to improve? _____

HOW SUBMITTED ARE YOU TO THE AUTHORITY OF EMPLOYERS AND WORK-PLACE SUPERVISORS?

- What attitudes do you usually demonstrate towards your boss(es) and supervisor(s)? _____

- Are there some requests, rules and/or wishes made by these leaders which you choose to disregard? No Yes
- if yes, what do you disregard? _____

- If you answered “yes” above, why do you disregard these



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

rules and requests? Is it because they go against the Laws of God?

No - if no, what does disregarding these work-place rules or requests from your boss say about your level of submission to the Authority of God, in your life? _____

Yes - if yes, do you maintain a respectful attitude while saying “no” to these commands? _____

- Submission under godly authority isn't just passive compliance. It isn't staying uninvolved, doing only the minimal amount that is required. True submission under godly authority in the workplace is demonstrated by Joseph, who served under his authority so faithfully that the whole work-place - or even the kingdom - was improved because of it!

Read Genesis Chapters 37-44 and then answer the following questions about godly submission in the workplace:

♦ When Joseph served in Potipher's house (Potipher was a governor in Egypt), he fulfilled his responsibilities so faithfully and well that Potipher quickly entrusted more responsibilities to him. Soon Potipher trusted Joseph to run his household and manage his other servants and assets to such a degree that he didn't even know his own holdings. Potipher would ask Joseph if he had a question about his own property or household! Under Joseph's excellent management, Potipher's house prospered.

In your place of employment, do you work so faith-



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

fully and well that you go above and beyond what is merely required?

Yes No - if no, what can you do to improve - in order to help your company and employer to prosper more? _____

♦ When Joseph served in Potipher's house, he resisted the opportunity to sin, even when it seemed that he wouldn't get caught. Potipher's wife tried on several occasions to seduce Joseph. Finally, she even grabbed hold of his cloak, in a effort to keep him with her and entice him into sin. Joseph refused each time. When she grabbed his cloak, he fled the room, leaving his cloak in her hands. He refused to do anything that would dishonor God or his boss, even in cases where the boss wouldn't find out.

In your place of employment, are you so trustworthy that you would do the right thing, even in cases where you wouldn't get caught? Yes No - if no, what can you do to improve, or make things right? _____

- On a scale of 1-8 (*with 1 being perfectly submitted and 8*



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

being totally rebellious), rate your submission/rebellion level towards your work-place leaders:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- Take a moment to pray before answering this next question. Then answer it in the way you believe God is leading you to respond. Are there ways that God wants you to improve regarding submitting to your employer?

No Yes - if yes, what can you do to improve?

HOW SUBMITTED ARE YOU TO THE AUTHORITY OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS WITHIN THE CHURCH?

- What attitudes do you usually demonstrate towards pastor(s) and spiritual leaders? _____

- Are you critical and/or disrespectful towards your church leaders? Are there requests or church standards which you choose to disregard? No Yes - if yes, what do you disregard? _____

- If you answered “yes” above, why do you disregard these rules and requests? Is it because they go against the Laws of God?



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

No - if no, what does disregarding these church rules or requests from your spiritual leaders say about your level of submission to the Authority of God, in your life? _____

Yes - if yes, do you maintain a respectful attitude while saying “no” to these commands? _____

- On a scale of 1-8 (*with 1 being perfectly submitted and 8 being totally rebellious*), rate your submission/rebellion level towards your church leaders:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

WIVES - HOW SUBMITTED ARE YOU TO THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR HUSBAND IN YOUR HOME?

- What attitudes do you usually demonstrate towards your husband? _____

- Are there some ways that you go above your husband’s leadership or do you act without his blessing?

No Yes

- if yes, in what circumstances do you disregard your husband’s leadership or blessing? _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- If you answered “yes” on the prior page, do you believe it God’s Will for you to make decisions or take action without your husband’s blessing? _____

No - if no, what does disregarding these requests from your husband say about your level of submission to the Authority of God, in your life? _____

Yes - if you said yes, because your husband wishes for you to do something that is against God’s Word, do you maintain a respectful attitude while saying “no” to these requests? _____

- What are your husband’s strengths and in what ways is he a good leader in your home? *(if your relationship with your husband is strained, or if you have fallen to the temptation to disrespect him, you may have a hard time answering this question. Please do not leave it blank. Pray. Ask God to help you see your husband’s good points. In order to be the wife God wants you to be, you need to identify his areas of strength.)*

- What can you do to further encourage your husband in these strong areas of his life? _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- What are your husband's weaknesses and in what ways is he failing to be a good leader in your home? _____

- Without giving in to the temptation to be critical, judgmental, nagging, or emotionally estranged from him; what can you do to further encourage your husband, strengthening these weak areas of his life? _____

On a scale of 1-8 (*with 1 being in perfect submission to godly authority and 8 being totally rebellious*), rate your submission/rebellion level towards your husband's leadership in your home:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

CHILDREN, TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS, LIVING IN YOUR PARENT'S HOME - HOW SUBMITTED ARE YOU TO THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR PARENTS IN YOUR HOME?

- What attitudes do you usually demonstrate towards your parents? _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- Are there some requests, rules and/or wishes made by your parents which you choose to disregard? No Yes

- if yes, what do you disregard? _____

- If you answered “yes” above, why do you disregard these requests? Is it because they go against the Laws of God?

No - if no, what does disregarding these requests from your parents say about your level of submission to the Authority of God, in your life? _____

Yes - if yes, do you maintain a respectful attitude while saying “no” to these commands? _____

- What are your mother’s strengths and in what ways is she a good leader in your home? _____

- What can you do to further encourage your mother in these strong areas of her life? _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- What are your mother's weaknesses and in what ways is she failing to be a good leader in your home? _____

- Without giving in to the temptation to be critical, judgmental, nagging, or in any way disrespectful or rebellious; what can you do to further encourage your mother, strengthening these weak areas of her life? _____

- What are your father's strengths and in what ways is he a good leader in your home? _____

- What can you do to further encourage your father in these strong areas of his life? _____

- What are your father's weaknesses and in what ways is he failing to be a good leader in your home? _____



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

- Without giving in to the temptation to be critical, judgmental, nagging, or in any way disrespectful or rebellious; what can you do to further encourage your father, strengthening these weak areas of his life? _____

On a scale of 1-8 (*with 1 being perfectly submitted and 8 being totally rebellious*), rate your submission/rebellion level towards your parents:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

5) In His Word, God tells you to pray for your human authority figures every day. Purpose to pray daily for the leaders in your life—1 Timothy 2:1-3





PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

SUBMISSION TEST ANSWERS:

When a leader gives an unrighteous command, it is appropriate to treat him/her as my equal and give him/her a scathing verbal rebuke. *(This box should not be checked because it is incorrect. As Paul demonstrated in his response to the high priest, whether or not a leader behaves righteously, he/she is to be spoken to with respect - Acts 23:5)*

If a leader wishes to be respected, the leader must earn that respect. *(This box should not be checked because it is incorrect. As David demonstrated in his treatment of king Saul, we are to respect the leader's position, even when they demonstrate wrong actions and attitudes.)*

Respect for leadership is to be given, whether or not a leader deserves it. I should respect the person's position, even when I cannot respect the person's attitudes or actions. *(This box should be checked because it is correct. Leaders are in positions of leadership, because God has placed them there - Romans 13:1)*

Submission under godly authority means that I must always obey every command my authority(ies) give. *(This box should not be checked because it is incorrect. God does not want His people to obey unrighteous commands, which disobey His Laws. When there is a conflict between the Laws of God, and the commands of man, we ought to obey God rather than man - Acts 5:29)*

All authorities, in my life, are placed there by God. When conflict arises, I should pray, remain submitted, and know that God will either use me as a witness to His Glory, or He will use the difficulty to perfect my character. *(This box should be checked because it is correct. God promises that He*



PERSONAL WARFARE (CONTINUED)

will work His good purpose in every area of our lives - Romans 8:28.)

If a leader is going against the Will of God, by my prayer and continued godly submission, God will either convert the leader, or He will ultimately remove this leader from my life. *(This box should be checked because it is correct. Leaders are in positions of leadership, because God has placed them there - Romans 13:1. Just as God did with Pharaoh in the story of the Exodus, if a leader defies God, He will work to turn his heart - Proverbs 21:1. But if this fails, God will remove the leader from leader ship.)*

Submission under authority is submission under God. *(This box should be checked because it is correct. Leaders are in positions of leadership, because God has placed them there - Romans 13:1. Submission under these leaders demonstrates faith in the ultimate Authority, Power and Leadership of God.)*

I am submitted only to God. Where people are concerned, I am accountable to no one. *(This box should not be checked because it is incorrect. God has placed human authorities in the life of every person - Romans 13:1-5)*

When a leader gives a command that goes against the Laws of God, I can still remain submitted under God and his/her authority by respectfully saying “no” and by refraining from demonstrating defiance. *(This box should not be checked because it is incorrect. God does not want His people to obey unrighteous commands, which disobey His Laws. Just as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo did when they refused to bow to king Nebuchadnezzar’s idolatrous image, we are to refuse to follow commands which disobey God. But we should say “no” respectfully and without a defiant attitude.)*



AREAS TO WORK ON & PLANS: