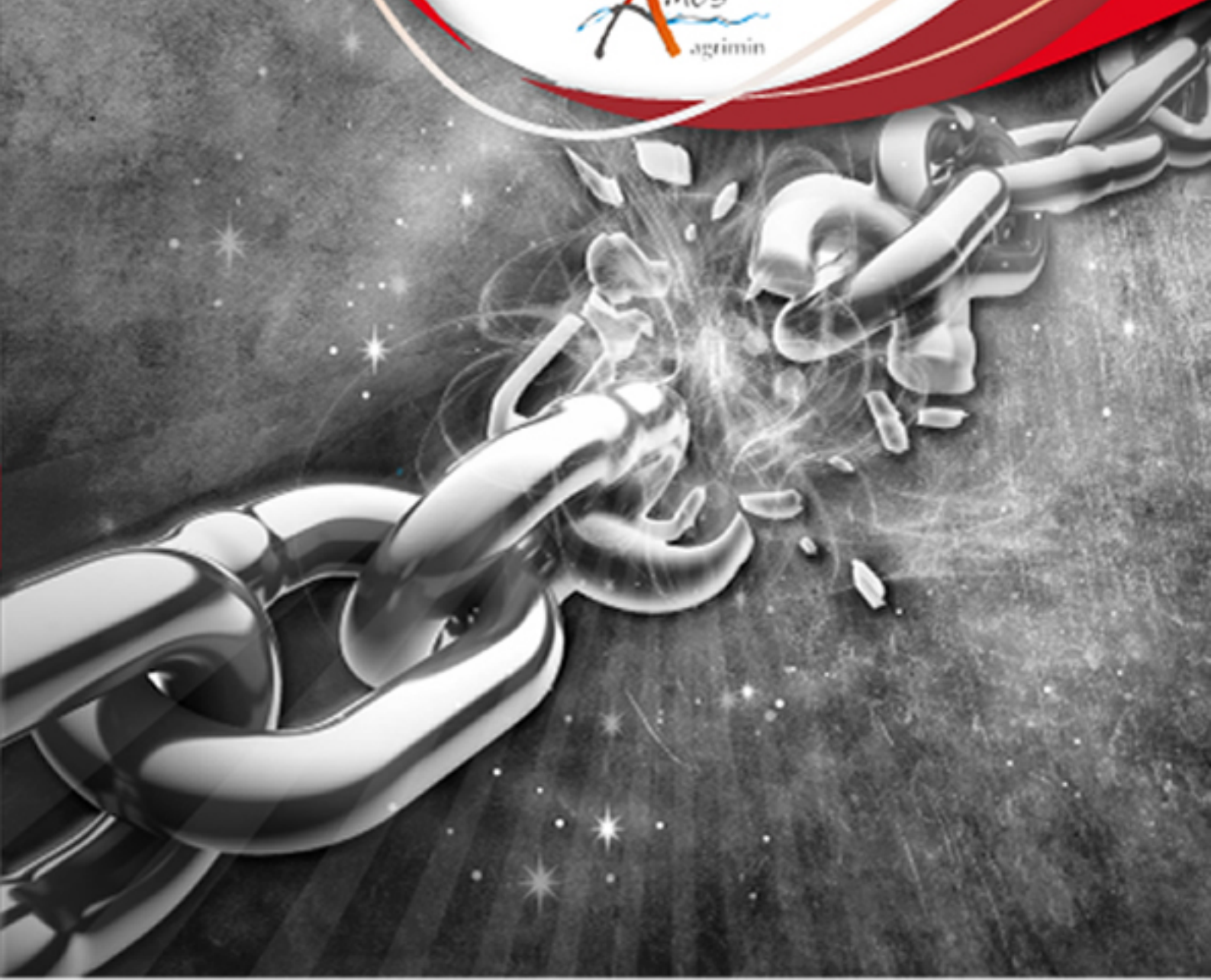


set **Free to**
stand up

40 Day Prayer Focus



The Wordless Book

“A colorful Way to Share the Gospel”

The *Wordless Book* originally comprised of only three pages – **Black**, **Red** and **White**. It was introduced by Charles Spurgeon in 1866 when preaching at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. His sermon was entitled “*The Wordless Book*”. Mr. Spurgeon told of an elderly pastor who had put three pages of these colors together, and often referred to them to remind himself of his own sinfulness (black), of Christ's blood poured out for him (red), and of the “whiter-than-snow” purification, as granted by the Lord.

It is not known exactly when the **Gold** page was added, but that brought another dimension to the book. It depicted the glory of God and his heavenly home. Nine years later, D.L. Moody used the book of colors at a children's service. An estimated 12 000 people attended to listen to his message about *A book with four pages: Black, Red, White and Gold*.

When Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) began to print the little book in 1939, they added another page of **Green**, to represent Christian growth.

In 1993, **AMOS** was founded by Hennie and Janetta Viljoen. **AMOS** realized the value of the *Wordless Book* in teaching the gospel to the illiterate. They, however, wanted it to tell the complete message of the Bible, and therefore in 1994 added the final color of **Blue** to the *Wordless Book*, to remind us of the promised return of Christ.

It later came to light that the International Children's Ministry Institute (ICMI) had the same vision, and had already added a blue page in 1988.



Set **Free to Stand Up**

40-Day Prayer Focus on Agriculture 1 September – 10 October 2014

Author:	Hennie Viljoen
Cover design:	Utilisoft
Translation:	Karen Botha Nicole Lindsay Haniki Theron
Printing and binding:	Oranje Drukkers

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Published by **AMOS AGRIMIN**

**secretary@amosafrica.net
www.amosafrica.net**

ISBN 978-1-920138-51-6



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How to make the most of this Prayer Focus

I would like to encourage you to work through this Prayer Focus in your private quiet time, even if it takes longer than the suggested 40 days. Consider it a **process** of deliverance and a **road** to victory that you need to take. **Fellow travellers are indispensable!** Therefore, I would encourage you to work through the daily portions with a fellow believer or a small group. You will be a great help to one another. I also encourage you to work through some of the books recommended at the end of this Prayer Focus.

Keep the following in mind to make the most of this Prayer Focus:

1. Plan and organise

Use every existing opportunity for prayer. Create new opportunities for praying with others. There are many possibilities but they will not happen by themselves. Take trouble and plan well. Consider the following:

- Your personal **quiet time**;
- Prayers **at meals** (this is the one opportunity when people can and should pray for agriculture);
- Spend time in prayer at **morning or evening devotions** or **during lunch time**;
- Use **existing small group meetings**;
- A farmer, farmer's wife, child, farm worker or other member of the congregation may be asked to intercede for agriculture and the agricultural community during a **church service**;
- Organise a **prayer and fasting weekend, special prayer meetings and half- or all-night prayer vigils**;
- Encourage the **aged, children, women, prayer groups**, etc to pray together;
- **Market** the *40-Day Prayer Focus on Agriculture* as widely as possible. Use local newspapers and radio stations. Remember, these guidelines are available in English and Afrikaans on *AMOS'* home page: www.amosafrica.net. The Prayer Focus may be duplicated.



2. Read the Scriptures

Read the Scriptures! Answer the questions. You will not experience as much blessing and growth if you do not read the Scriptures. Most importantly, give the Spirit the opportunity to speak through the Word.

3. Confess sin

Although it is not specifically mentioned every day, it is important to pay attention to the four important issues mentioned in **2 Chronicles 7:14**:

- Let the Holy Spirit fill you with remorse and repentance;
- Pray and confess all the sin of which the Spirit convinces you;
- Ask after the will of the Lord and obey it;
- Turn away from your evil ways. Turn your back on everything that does not bear the Lord's approval according to His Word.

4. Prayer guidelines

The prayers and/or prayer guidelines are merely guidelines. They are not prescriptions. Read and think about each day's portion. Then pray about everything the Holy Spirit lays on your heart.

5. Cultivate the discipline of fasting and obedience

Many good books about fasting and prayer are available. Please read some of them. The 40-Day Prayer Focus is the ideal opportunity to hone your self-control and discipline. You may follow Esther's example and eat and drink nothing for three days (Esther 4:16), or eat only vegetables and drink water like Daniel and his friends (Daniel 1:12).

You may consider fasting from something you enjoy for 40 days: stop drinking coffee or Coke; stop eating sweets or chocolate; stop eating meat or dairy products or bread. Decide not to have more than one helping of food or stop taking tonics and other stimulants. Use the time you usually spend watching television to pray. The possibilities are endless. It is important to ask the Lord what He wants *you* to do.

We need to fast from more than food, television, etc. We must learn to **let go of our sin and disobedience**. We must fast from our evil deeds and break with our bad habits. Use this time to cultivate and practice the discipline of obedience.



PART 1

Day 1 Stand up!

I see the chains around Africa and her people breaking! The Lord Jesus is doing what He came to do: saving and setting free. He is healing and making anew! He is calling agriculturalists across Africa, and from all over the continent they are surrendering to Him and standing up. They are standing up for Him! His Kingdom is coming in agriculture!

Jesus Christ, King of the kings of the earth, has done everything to restore the relationship between God and us. He has done everything to forgive us from sin and to grant us victory over the power of sin and evil. He saves us from fear and bitterness, from pain, from sin and suffering. He teaches us the truth so that we do not need to believe the lie. He came to set us free and so we are free to stand up and live our godly calling! We are free to stand up for Him!

Jesus instructed me: *Tell agriculturalists to stand up and I will make them stand up throughout Africa!* God has already conquered everything that paralysed you and kept you in chains, and so I command you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, **Stand up!** I do so through the words of the following song.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus | 2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus |
| Redeemer of the land | All peoples of the land |
| He's Lord of all creation | Let's live and farm for Jesus |
| Victorious He stands | To glorify His Name |
| Let us all represent Him | Let's conquer all the evil |
| And be His hands and feet | And bring His Name great fame |
| Let us fulfil our calling | Let us fulfil our calling |
| As farmers on His land | As farmers on His land |



3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus
It's time to make our stand:
To live and farm for Jesus
'cross Africa our land
let's do work of high standard
Rejoicing in God's way
Let us fulfil our calling
As farmers on His land

**Listen! The Lord is speaking to you in Deuteronomy 30:19-20.
What do you hear?**

.....
.....

If you choose life, where will you find it? **John 14:6**

What will happen if you believe the Truth? **John 8:31-36**

Prayer:

- † Pray that agriculturalists across Africa will accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.
- † Pray that ***Living and Farming God's Way*** will characterise their lives and not just remain a nice sounding slogan.
- † Pray that agriculturalists will stand up for Jesus. Pray that they will openly confess Him (Matthew 10:32-33).



PART 2

Day 2

I understand

I understand your circumstances! I understand what you are going through! I understand how you are feeling! I understand! The words, *I understand*, are music to my ears. They do something to me! They fill me with hope.

It makes a world of difference when the speaker of these words adds, *That is why I came to help you.* My heart is filled with a new conviction: *I am not supposed to keep suffering. A better life is possible! Victory is possible! Freedom and peace are possible. Therefore, I can and want to stand up!*

I hear stories of pain and suffering all over the country. I see people blundering ahead in sin, people burdened with pain and suffering from their past. I am not only talking about unbelievers, but about Christians too: about God's people! I am filled with sadness. Too many people have been saved but are not free. Their sin has been forgiven but they cannot triumph over it. They are supposed to understand and live their calling but are still paralysed by their emotional pain. They have been offered peace but their lives are filled with inner conflict. They see, hear and know the truth but keep believing the lie. They live in fear even though love is supposed to drive all fear from their lives.

I am writing this book because I understand. No, because *God understands*. He instructed me to write to you: you who have been robbed, attacked, falsely accused, humiliated, misunderstood, rejected, fired, insulted, raped or molested; you who are enduring prejudice; you who have been treated badly by those you treat well; you who longed for recognition, love, security and acceptance in vain when you were a child. I am writing to you who went looking for things in the wrong way and in wrong places and now have even more pain and heartache.

I am writing to you who keep falling and getting up, falling and getting up, because a life of freedom and victory is every Christian's birthright. I am writing to you who have been called; you who are destined to live as



free human beings under the authority of a wonderful King in the “Promised Land” but are running the risk of never reaching your destiny.

Listen to the Word of the Lord in Exodus 3:7-10 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. What was (and is) God’s desire? But what happened?

.....

.....

.....

This is an exciting story of the living God who, filled with love and compassion, involved Himself in the lives of people in pain and suffering. It is also a sad story. It is the story of people who should have entered the Promised Land but never did (Numbers 14:26-35).

This is still the sad story of many Christians today. They have been saved but keep living in pain. They are God’s children but are still entangled in sin. They are free but still think like slaves. They survive but are not living lives of victory. They believe *in* God but are struggling to believe God.

Why is this so? Is it because of unprocessed ***pain*** in their lives? Is it ***sin***? Is it ***bondage***? Or is it all three?

Whatever the answer, know this: God is very aware of what is going on in your life. He loves you and so He understands you. He came to help you. **Stand up!** There is a way out, **The Way!** You must believe it.

Prayer:

- † Talk to God about what you are experiencing. Talk to Him about what touched your heart now.
- † Pray for healing from pain and suffering. Pray for victory over sin and enslavement to all that still keeps you and others in bondage.



Day 3

Listen, I am talking to you (1)

Immediately after the Lord spoke to him Moses wanted to know who God was. He wanted to know what he had to tell the Israelites about the One who sent him to talk to pharaoh and lead them out of slavery.

Listen to God's answer in Exodus 3:14-15. What does He say? Who is He?

.....

God is so great and wonderful that no one can describe Him. He is everything and much more than you can think or imagine. He is more than you need. He is the eternal **I AM**.

Who commands you to stand up? If you think it is me, the writer, there is very little chance that you will do so. Fortunately, it is not me.

Listen, the One who gives the command introduces Himself:

I am the Son of God who was sent to the world to set all who the Father gave me free, and to grant them eternal life.¹ I, who am also God, came to show you who God the Father is. I came to introduce Him to you.² He is just like Me and I am just like Him.³ I came because God is love.⁴ Therefore, He loves you in spite of your sin.

Because I who am God became a human being, I experienced everything you experience every day. The only difference is that I never gave in to temptation and never sinned. Because I know what you are going through (I experienced it myself), I am a merciful, compassionate and faithful High Priest for you before God. Because I was also tempted and because I suffered too, I can help you when

¹ John 17:1-3; John 12:49-50; John 20:30-31

² John 1:18

³ John 8:19; 10:30; 14:8-10 and 17:21-23

⁴ 1 John 4:8-10



*you are being tempted and suffering. I **understand** you and have sympathy for you.¹*

I am the Saviour!² You do not need to work hard to obey a long list of legalistic prescriptions to be saved and reconciled with God. I have set you free from this burden by doing everything for you.³ I paid the full price for your sin even though I never sinned and was never sinful.⁴

*I was willing to be cursed by God so that no curse would ever strike you.⁵ The Father was so satisfied with the price I paid for your sin that He raised me from death and gave me a seat of honour beside Him.⁶ I erased the enmity between you and God.⁷ I brought peace between you.⁸ The perfect relationship I have with God the Father, I grant to you. Because I am 100% right with God, you are also now 100% right with Him.⁹ God the Father now feels about you the way He feels about Me. I want you to **BELIEVE THIS**.*

I am the One who wants to share everything I am and have with you: My Spirit,¹⁰ My life,¹¹ My peace,¹² My joy,¹³ My victory,¹⁴ My inheritance,¹⁵ My power,¹⁶ My Name,¹⁷ My reign,¹⁸

¹ Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:15-16

² Luke 2:10-11; John 1:29

³ Romans 3:19-28; Romans 9:30 to 10:4; Galatians 2:16

⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 10:12-14; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 8:46

⁵ Galatians 3:13

⁶ Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:6-11; 1 Peter 3:18-22

⁷ Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 2:1-5

⁸ Romans 5:1-2

⁹ 1 Corinthians 1:2 & 30; Hebrews 10:14; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:1

¹⁰ John 20:22; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9

¹¹ John 10:10; John 17:2

¹² John 14:27

¹³ John 15:11

¹⁴ John 16:33; Romans 8:37

¹⁵ Romans 8:17

¹⁶ Luke 9:1

¹⁷ Acts 11:26; John 16:23-24

¹⁸ Ephesians 2:6 and Revelation 20:6



My home,¹ My Image.²

The devil uses all kinds of lies to try to make life difficult for you and prevent you from accepting what I am giving you. But, know this: I came to destroy the devil's work.³ You do not need to be ruled by Him any more. You are free! I came to set you free.⁴ You no longer need to believe his lies, because I am the Truth and I came to tell you the truth.⁵ You need not live in fear anymore because I love you dearly.⁶ My love for you is perfect and complete.⁷ It does not depend on what you do or how you feel.

Prayer:

- † Bow down to Jesus in adoration. (You need to bow to Him before you can stand up for Him!) Thank Him for all He has done for you.
- † Pray that agriculturalists throughout Africa will know Jesus Christ.
- † Pray that they will love Him.
- † Pray that they will obey Him completely.

Day 4

Listen, I am talking to you (2)

I am more than your Saviour. I am Lord and King.⁸ I have already been crowned Victor of the battle against evil.

¹ John 14:1-3

² 2 Corinthians 3:18

³ 1 John 3:8; John 16:33; Hebrews 2:14

⁴ John 8:32 and 36

⁵ John 1:14 and 17; John 14:6; John 8:31-32

⁶ 1 John 4:18-19

⁷ John 10:15; John 13:1; 1 John 3:16; Romans 8:35-39

⁸ Luke 6:46; Acts 2:36; Romans 10:9-13; Philippians 2:11; Revelation 1:5



I have conquered the devil,¹ put death to death² and publicly revealed his evil powers as losers.³ I have been given supreme authority in heaven and on earth.⁴ I gladly share this power and authority with you.⁵ With Me, you are already in a position of authority in heaven.⁶

Moreover, I am with you.⁷ I am there for you, to help you reveal My Image and My character; to show people who I am, what I am like;⁸ to maintain my victory over all that is evil and bad;⁹ to finish the work I started.¹⁰

I want to save you and I want to have a relationship with you because I love you.¹¹ The victory, healing, freedom, fullness, fruit and peace you need today I have already granted to millions of people in the past 2000 years. I am still the same Jesus.¹² I want to, can and will do it for you too. I am all you really need.

I am the Truth¹³ and I cry when you believe the lie and allow yourself to be constrained by these convictions. I am The Way¹⁴ and I am upset when you keep wandering off on dead-ends. I am the Life¹⁵ and I grieve over you when you seek life in lifeless things - and when you consult the dead about how you should live.¹⁶

¹ John 16:33; Hebrews 2:14-15

² Luke 7:22; John 11:25; Acts 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 1:5 and 1:17-18

³ Colossians 2:14-15

⁴ Matthew 28:18

⁵ Luke 9:1-2; Acts 1:8

⁶ Ephesians 2:6

⁷ Matthew 28:20

⁸ 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 2:6

⁹ Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:4

¹⁰ Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:18 and 20:21

¹¹ John 15:4-5 and 14; John 17:20-26 and 1 John 1:3

¹² Hebrews 13:8

¹³ John 14:6

¹⁴ John 14:6

¹⁵ John 14:6

¹⁶ Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and Isaiah 8:19-22



If only you knew how I desire you to live the true life I have given you to the full. It is so much more than the kind of life you are used to.¹

I want you to know that I have done everything to remove your sin.² I want you to know that I did everything to set you free from the power and hold evil and sin had over you. You died with Me and you were raised with Me to a new life. Therefore, you are dead to sin and free to live for God.³ I want you to know that I will not wag my finger at you and threaten, accuse or condemn you because of your sin. I am next to you, ready and willing to help you overcome sin in your life.⁴

I am your Helper. I am your Attorney - the One who as witness to what happened at Golgotha, proves your innocence.⁵ I want you to know that I can heal your disease and your pain.⁶

*I am calling you. Stand up - come with Me. I am **the Way out of temptation,**⁷ sin, darkness and pain. I am also **the Way to the Father,**⁸ to His glory, peace and love. I am the Way, the Only Way - for you, for the agricultural community and for Africa.*

I am a reality, not just a religious idea or something made up by people. You did not make Me up and then create Me with your hands. I created you. You live, move and exist through Me.⁹

*If you **BELIEVE** that I am who I say I am, if this is the firm conviction of your heart, then you can know that you have been*

¹ John 10:10

² Hebrews 10:14

³ Romans 6:1-14

⁴ John 8:1-11; Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16

⁵ 1 John 2:1-2

⁶ Luke 4:18-21; Luke 7:20-23; Isaiah 53:4-5

⁷ 1 Corinthians 10:11-17

⁸ John 14:6; Hebrews 10:19

⁹ John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-4; Acts 17:28



saved. Know that you have eternal life,¹ because I am the One who lives in all who believe in Me.²

Prayer:

- † Bow down before Jesus, the Lord, in worship. (You need to bow to Him before you can stand up for Him!)
- † Pray that agriculturalists across Africa will truly know Jesus Christ.
- † Pray that they will love Him deeply.
- † Pray that they will obey Him with all their heart.

Day 5

Now that you know who Jesus is ...

One day I received a slip in my post-box. My name and my ID were on the slip. The message was clear: *There is a package for me at the post office. It already belongs to me. Everything in the package is mine.* All I needed to do was to **BELIEVE** that there was a package (although I could not see it) and that the person behind the counter would give it to me when I asked for it. By **believing**, I would receive what someone else had already worked and/or paid for, for free. But, what if I did not believe it and said, *"This is just too good to be true. I never get anything without working for it or paying for it myself. It is a mistake. It is not mine."*? If I reasoned like that, did not believe the package was mine and did not fetch it, I would not receive it. The slip in the post-box requires you to make a choice: **Do you believe it or not?**

You know who Jesus is. **Now you must make a decision. Do you believe that He is who He says He is or not?** Everything depends on your answer to this question.

¹ Romans 10:9-13; 1 John 5:11-13

² Colossians 1:27



Listen to what Jesus says in John 3:16-18. What is the difference between those who believe and those who do not?

.....

According to Romans 10:9-13, what must you do to be saved?

.....

Believe in Jesus and you will enjoy a range of wonderful privileges – things He deserved and for which He has already paid. He gives them all to you – free of charge!

Firstly: Your sins (past, present and future) are forgiven immediately and completely (Acts 26:18; John 1:29). You need not make any further sacrifice (Hebrews 10:14-18). The knowledge that your sin has been forgiven does not mean you should keep sinning (Romans 6:1-2). It should rather motivate you to confess and conquer your sin (1 John 1:7-9).

Secondly: Because your sin has been forgiven, you have been pardoned. The charge sheet against you demanding that you be charged and punished was destroyed on the cross. There is no charge, no accusation and no condemnation against you. You are free (Colossians 2:14; Romans 8:1 & 31-34)!

Thirdly: Your relationship with God has been restored. The enmity between you and God has been destroyed. There is peace between you and God. The perfect relationship Jesus has with the Father has been given to you. Therefore, you now have free access to the Father (Hebrews 4:15-16 and 10:19-23). You will find pardon and compassion in Him. Because Jesus is 100% right with God, you are also 100% right with Him. You share in Jesus' righteousness and therefore you have been justified. God the Father feels about you the way He feels about Jesus. Believe it!

Fourthly: You are a new being (2 Corinthians 5:17). You have a new identity. You have been born of God. You immediately gain the right to call yourself God's child (John 1:12-13). You are God's child by virtue of your (re)birth from God and not because you worked for it. Your salvation is not the result of the many good things you have done. It is the immediate result of faith in Jesus Christ as your only Saviour.



Fifthly: Most wonderful of all: Believe in Christ and He comes to live in you through His Spirit (John 14:15-17; Romans 8:9). *Christ in us* is the core, the good news of the Gospel. That is what it is all about. It is the best news ever (Colossians 1:27)!

Because this is all true, I beg you: *Stand up for Jesus!*

Prayer:

- † Pray that all who hear this good news will believe in Jesus Christ.
- † Pray that the Word will spread quickly and triumph everywhere (2 Thessalonians 3:1)
- † If you have not accepted Jesus I beg you: Do so now! **Pray** and tell Him that you believe in Him. **Confess** your sin and ask Him to forgive you. **Ask** Him to live in you through His Spirit. Ask Him to teach you the truth and to live according to the truth.



PART 3

Day 6

The father of the lie

I trust that you have already chosen Jesus; that you believe all He says about Himself and about you. But, even if you believe it all, you are still part of a spiritual war. Therefore, know your enemy and his strategy.

We do not live only in a tangible world. There is also an invisible world. The invisible world is just as real as the tangible world. I know and believe that it is so because God says so in His Word (Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 6:10-12).

Many people who believe in the invisible world believe that it consists of two great powers: God on the one side and Satan on the other. They think these two forces are equally strong and sometimes one wins and sometimes the other. They believe: *Poor little me. I am stuck between the two and so I sometimes win and sometimes lose.* They believe that God and Satan have more or less the same characteristics. For instance, that both can do anything (almighty), that both are always everywhere (omnipresent) and that both know everything (omniscient). ***This is a lie!*** Satan is a created being. He does not share God's character. He used to be an angel but he rebelled against God and, with all the angels who followed him, lost his position (Jude 6 and Revelation 12:4,9).

The Word of God gives a clear description of the real nature and character of the devil.

Listen to the truth in John 8:44 and 1 Peter 5:8. What are the attributes of the devil?

.....

.....

.....

It is clear: The devil is a liar! His sole purpose is to destroy your life. His strategy is to convince us to believe his lies, to accept them as the truth. If he succeeds, we are his because the convictions of our hearts



determine our lives (Proverbs 4:23 and 27:19). If our convictions are true, they have good consequences for us. If our convictions are lies, they have destructive consequences for us.

Therefore, the truth is crucial and the lie is life-threatening.

When you believe in Jesus, the lies you have believed for years do not disappear overnight. That is why people's behaviour does not necessarily change overnight when they are converted. You first need to allow God to renew your thoughts and the Word and the Spirit to fill your heart with new convictions. Only then will your life change. Read Paul's letters to the various congregations. They have been saved. He calls them holy. Yet he talks to them about all kinds of bad things they keep doing out of habit. However, these things are unbecoming to people who belong to God, people who have been set aside for God (cf. Ephesians 4:17-24).

Prayer:

- † Pray that you and all agriculturalists will know and love the truth / Truth.
- † Pray that the Lord will grant us all an overwhelming love for His Word (the Bible). Pray that it will be more precious than gold and sweeter than honey to us (Psalm 19:9-10).
- † Pray against lies and deceit because they come from the devil.

Day 7

The nature of the battle

The first lie the devil wants us to believe is that he does not exist. If he succeeds in establishing this conviction in the church (and he is busy doing so), he can continue his destructive work without hindrance. If he does not succeed with this lie, he tries a second. He wants to convince us that the ***battle is still raging*** between him and God. He wants us to believe that he can still do as he pleases and that he might even win the battle. This is a lie too.



Our battle against Satan and his evil forces is not about who is the strongest, but about what is the truth. It is not a ***battle for power*** but a ***battle for the truth***. The only way in which Satan can influence you and me is by convincing us to believe his lies. He is the father of the lie and so always does all he can to mislead people with lies.

The Bible is clear about who is ***all-powerful***.

Listen to Jesus speaking in Matthew 28:18. What is He saying?

.....

**What do we read in Ephesians 1:18-22 and Colossians 2:9-10?
What do you hear?**

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Well, if ***ALL*** power belongs to Jesus, then ***NO*** power can belong to Satan. The days when Satan had power over the world are long gone (Luke 4:6). Satan and his evil spirits ***have been conquered***. Jesus conquered them by His death and resurrection. Jesus disarmed them and showed that they were (are) losers (Colossians 2:14-15). The battle for ***power*** is over! Jesus is the Victor, the Champion and in Him, we are more than victorious (Romans 8:37 and 1 John 5:3-5).

What we need to fight against every day is the devil's lies. We are in the same position as Adam was in Genesis 2:15. He had to preserve and protect nature. This does not mean he was responsible for "nature conservation" in the sense of the word today, because nature conservation was unnecessary before the fall. When the Word says that he had to take care of creation it means that he had to make sure that Satan did not get hold of it. Because it was before the fall, Satan had no physical power over creation. God gave Adam and Eve authority over creation. They had the authority and Satan could not take it over by force. His only weapon was the lie. Satan misled Adam with lies and half-truths and so gained power. Now, after Jesus' victory on the cross and by His resurrection, we are in the same position Adam was in before the fall. **The devil does not have a hold over us. His only weapon is**



misguidance. The extent to which we believe his lies is the extent to which we give him the right to influence and even control our lives.

Our instruction is clear: Do not give the devil any right, say, influence or control over your life *by believing his lies*. He has NO other weapon to use against you. His power lies in lies. He loses all his power when the truth points out his lies.

Therefore, you must remember: your authority over evil does not increase in proportion to the volume of your voice. You cannot gain the upper hand over the devil by shouting at him. You need not be stronger than the devil to defeat him. You do not need to defeat him in a physical battle. ***You defeat him by believing the truth.***

Listen to what Jesus says in John 8:31-36 and 14:6, and 17:17. Who and what is the truth? Who and what truly sets you free?

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Christ is the truth and if you believe the truth, the truth will set you free. God's Word is the truth.

Therefore, your freedom does not depend on how loudly you shout at the devil. It does not depend on your physical strength. It does not depend on how "spiritual" your church leader or counsellor is. ***You are set free by what you choose to believe, to confess, to lay down and to forgive. Make sure that the devil's lies are not, and do not become, the conviction of your heart.*** This will rob you of your freedom and your victory. It will prevent you from standing up for Jesus.

Prayer:

- † Worship and thank the Lord Jesus Christ because He has gained final victory over the devil.
- † Pray that the devil's lies will not become the conviction of your heart because it will rob you of your freedom and victory.



The devil's assault

We already know that the battle we are involved in is not a battle for **power** but a battle for the **truth**. But, it is important to take note of the three ways in which Satan still attacks us. ***The lie plays a decisive role in all three instances:***

- he **accuses** us and lays false charges against us;
- he **tempts** us;
- he **misleads** us.

We will go into more detail about each of these later.

It is quite possible that his assault will **influence** our lives. It all depends on your answer to the following question: Do you know and believe the truth? Or do you accept the devil's half-truths and lies? The more lies you believe, the greater the influence the devil and his evil forces have over you.

It is also possible for the devil and his evil forces to **control** you. It usually begins with pain that you experience at some stage of your life. The father of the lie immediately offers you bad advice on how to respond to the pain and injustice you have suffered. He tells you that you cannot trust God and that you need to protect yourself from future pain in some way. *"You do not want to be hurt again."* Painful experiences often cause us to "write a little mental programme" and to bury it deep in our sub-conscious. We forget about it, but every time we press a certain button, the programme makes us respond in a particular way. In computer language, this is called the *"default"*. You do not need to choose it, it happens automatically because of the underlying programme. In your relationship with people, things often happen to remind you of your pain. Then the programme kicks in and you respond automatically, without thinking about it or making a choice. You lose your temper; you feel sorry for yourself; you justify your bad actions (in other words, you protect your sinful way of life); you build a wall of self-defence around yourself; you isolate yourself – you clam up and become inapproachable; you condemn and criticise everyone – it makes you feel better about yourself; you become selfish and take everything personally; you get bitter and keep trying to find ways of getting back at others; you even reject those you love and trust no one.



Your pain leads to negative thoughts; negative thoughts lead to sin; sin leads to a life in darkness; a life in darkness opens the door to demonic control; demonic control leads to more pain and suffering. Then the vicious circle starts again. You are caught up and entangled (bound) in this vicious circle. It has a destructive effect on all your relationships: your relationship with yourself (self-image), with other people and with God suffers. You feel rejected and so reject others; you endure pain and therefore hurt others; you do to others what has been done to you. This vicious circle keeps on and on and it continues from generation to generation until someone (may it be you) **stands up** and says, *Enough is enough! This is where I draw the line.*

Read Acts 5:1-11, James 3:13-18 and Ephesians 4:26-27. What do you hear?

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You cannot blame the devil when he controls you. You are the one who believes his lies and opens the door to him allowing him to determine your actions. You are not his victim but his fellow-worker.

The devil will keep trying to mislead, tempt and accuse you even though you believe in Jesus. He may succeed in influencing and even controlling you, but **he will never own you!** When you believe in Jesus Christ, you belong to God. He has bought you and paid for you in full.

Listen to the Word in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 1 Peter 1:18-19. Who owns you?

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Prayer:

† Ask the Holy Spirit to show you and your family and friends where and how the devil influences your life and/or behaviour. Bring it into the light and confess it. Pray 1 John 1:5-9.



- † If you believe in Jesus Christ, thank God that you can be certain that you belong to Him (John 10:27-30 and 1 John 3:1-3).
- † If you have not accepted Jesus yet, I beg you to do so now! **Pray** and tell Him that you believe in Him. **Confess** your sin and ask Him to forgive you. **Ask** Him to live in you through His Holy Spirit, to teach you the truth and to live according to it.

Look at the sketch on page 42

Day 9

The devil accuses you

You already know that the battle you are waging is not a battle for **power** but a battle for the **truth**. You also know that the devil cannot own you when you believe in Jesus because you belong to God. But, the devil can still **influence** your life and **control** and determine your behaviour. He tries to do so by:

- **accusing** you;
- **tempting** you and
- **misleading** you.

Lies play a crucial part in all three instances.

You will know when the devil **accuses you, when he lays a charge against you**, because he wants you to know. He wants to make you so sad and miserable that you will become discouraged (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:6-7). He wants your sadness to lead to your death (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:10 and Matthew 27:3-5). He wants you to believe that there is no hope for you. He stirs up feelings of guilt in you and takes away your confidence. This prevents you from taking your sin and guilt to God in prayer. The devil is vague because he does not want you to fix things in your life. He wants you to feel bad and guilty because that will prevent you from standing up for and testifying about Jesus!

He wants you to fear God's punishment and judgement. He wants you to constantly fear punishment (1 John 4:16-21), death, tomorrow, evil spirits, sickness, disasters and people (Hebrews 2:15 and Romans 8:35-39).



He wants you to be a slave to fear. He wants to make fear your master. Once he succeeds in making you a slave to fear, you will lose the freedom to do as you please. Fear dictates to you what to decide, how to spend your money and where to live. Fear determines your relationship with people – you find it difficult to love them because you are afraid of them.

When something bad happens to you the devil takes it out of context and says: *Serves you right! That is what happens to losers like you. There you have it now! It just proves that you can't trust God. God does not like you. Just think of everything you have done.* This is why many victims of violence, abuse, rape and molestation believe that they are to blame. Children may even feel that it is their fault when their parents get divorced.

It is important for you to see the lies and the motives behind the devil's accusations. Conquer and destroy them with the truth. The Word is the truth.

Read Romans 8:1 and verses 31-34. What is the truth?

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In contrast to the devil's accusations, the Holy Spirit convinces us of our sin. He encourages us to confess our sin and to believe that the blood of Christ cleanses us (1 John 1:7-9). He reminds us that we are dead to sin and free to live for God because we are in Christ (Romans 6). The devil wants you to live with a guilty conscience, but the Spirit sets you free from your guilty conscience (Hebrews 10:19-23 and 1 John 3:19-23) by reminding you about the sacrifice Jesus made.

Hold on to the TRUTH when the devil accuses you.

Prayer:

- † Ask the Holy Spirit to convince you of your sin (so that you can confess it) and of your justness in Christ so that you will have a clear conscience. (Read John 16:7-11.)
- † Pray that love will banish fear of punishment from your life. (Read 1 John 4:16-21.)



Day 10

First temptation

Temptation is part of every believer's life. Temptation is not a sin, but giving in to temptation is. With every temptation the devil is trying to get you and me to turn our backs on "*the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God*".

In Matthew 3:16-17 we read that Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and the Father verified His identity. He declared His complete satisfaction with their relationship. *This is my beloved Son, and I am wonderfully pleased by Him* (Matthew 3:17. The Living Bible). Immediately afterwards the Spirit lead Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). The devil concentrated his temptations on Jesus' identity and His calling.

Listen to God's Word in Matthew 4:1-4. What was Jesus' natural need after 40 days? Why did the devil start with, *If You are the Son of God ...?* [He knows that Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 1:23-24)!]

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The first two lies the devil told Jesus to tempt Him were:

1. *You cannot believe what the Father said about who you are. You need to prove your identity yourself.*
2. *You should do so by immediately meeting your own needs.*

The devil used lies and half-truths in an attempt to convince Jesus that He could and should live independently, separate from the Father. He wanted Jesus to start doing His own thing in His own way and to stop trusting in the Father. The same thing lies behind all the temptations you and I experience. The devil says, ***You cannot take God seriously when He says that He is your Father, that He knows what you need or that He will take care of you. You cannot trust God to meet all your needs. You may just as well ignore God and take care of***



yourself in your own way. You are able to do so. You can get by without Him. Look after yourself!

Here are some examples: All people need RLSA (Recognition, Love, Security and Acceptance). People who do not get RLSA from their parents when they are little feel empty, have a deep hole inside them. The devil later uses this unfulfilled desire for RLSA to tempt them. He does not want them to trust God to meet their need for RLSA in His own time and in His way. The devil's temptations go something like this:

- *If you long for **recognition** just keep talking about yourself. Let everyone know about everything you have done and achieved.*
- *Do anything to get attention: be difficult and rude; insult and humiliate people; wear expensive clothes; tattoo your whole body; wear flashy hairstyles and clothes; smoke and do drugs; make a lot of money and practice free love.*
- *Remember that you are always right! Never apologise. You always know best.*
- *If you need **love**, “make love” with someone who also wants love. Love is love – it does not matter who gives it to you or how you get it. Just get it even if you have to resort to bribery and flattery.*
- *Build a wall around yourself if you are afraid of being hurt. Do not allow others into your heart. Do not allow others to get close to you.*
- *If you need **security**, trust in yourself. Experience has shown that you cannot trust anyone else.*
- *If you need **acceptance**, go with the crowd. Give in to peer pressure. Do what everyone else is doing. Do not try to be different.*
- *If you want God and people to accept you, you must perform. Your value lies in what you are good at and in doing things well.*

Believe these lies for long enough and they will become your truth. They will become the conviction of your heart. You will start living according to them without thinking about what you are doing. They will form your way of thinking, your opinions and vision. They will be more important to you than the truths in God's Word (2 Corinthians 10:5). They will have a bigger influence on your life than God's Word. For example, although the Word says you are saved by faith and not by keeping the law (Galatians 2:16), you will keep trying to impress God by keeping laws



and rules because you are convinced that He will not accept you if you do not perform (Romans 9:31-32).

Any attempt at satisfying your needs by believing the devil's lies results in enslavement instead of fulfilment. The reason you started drinking is never satisfied but you keep drinking. It is impossible to satisfy your sexual needs with pornography or illicit sex. Instead of feeling fulfilled, pornography sucks you in. You immediately develop a greater desire to see more. Illicit sex does not satisfy you either – you just become addicted to it. Not even money can satisfy you because you never have enough. You may have everything but still feel empty and unfulfilled.

The devil always uses an *acceptable need* to try to persuade you into satisfying it in an *unacceptable way*. Should he succeed you become a slave to your unfulfilled desires. That is why so few Christians live according to their new identity in Christ. They live through their unfulfilled desires. They are driven and controlled by these needs. Sub-consciously their behaviour is determined by these needs instead of by the Spirit of God who lives in them.

Prayer:

- † *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one* (Matthew 6:13).
- † Pray for parents (MOTHER and FATHER!) to raise their children with the RLSA (Recognition, Love, Security and Acceptance) they need. It really helps to protect children when they are being tempted.
- † Ask the Spirit to grant you and the agricultural community the firm conviction that God our Father knows what we need and that He wants to and will make provision for all our needs (Matthew 6:25-33).
- † Pray that we will believe what God says about our identity in Christ and our relationship with Him.



Day 11

Second temptation

When the devil's first attempt failed, he tried something else. **Read Matthew 4:5-7 to see what it was.**

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God says He is wonderfully pleased by You.

- 1. Let us see how strong Your relationship is. Let us test God's love for You. Do as I say and let us see how He responds.*
- 2. If You don't want to prove that You are the Son of God then give Him an opportunity to do so. Let Him save You.*

The Father said, *Let them crucify You and I will save You.* The devil said, *Jump off the roof and force the Father to save you.* Jesus refused to jump. He refused to do something that would force the Father to intervene and save Him. He wanted to obey His Father – not to manipulate or force His Father to do what He (Jesus) wanted.

The same thought lies behind all the temptations you and I experience: ***You say you trust in God - prove it! Leap in faith and trust God to save you if you get into trouble. Give Him an opportunity to prove that you can trust in His Word and His promises - and to show that He likes you. Come on, He will always stop the pawpaw from striking the fan. He will forgive you even if you ignore Him and make bad decisions. He will see to it that there are no bad consequences.***

You and I are continually being tempted to try to **take advantage of God to promote our own interests.** (Think how impressed people would have been if Jesus jumped from the temple roof and did not get hurt.) It boils down to us trying to manipulate God for our own good. You try to force the Father to obey you (by reminding Him of His promises), instead of you obeying Him. You do not ask after His will. You do your own thing yet expect Him to keep His promises and help you when you get into trouble because of your own foolishness (cf. Proverbs 19:3). **God's promises only apply when you and I do what the Father instructs us to do.** You can



expect everything from God when you obey His instructions. However, you cannot depend on His promises when you do as you please and listen to the devil.

The devil's lie in the first temptation was: ***You cannot trust God. Look after yourself.*** Do it your way. In the second temptation the devil's half-truth is: ***If you really trust God, force Him to accept full responsibility for you.*** Force Him to prove that He is your God. Force Him to prove how He feels about you. Force Him to prevent what you are doing out of disobedience from messing up His plans.

Trusting in God does not mean doing nothing. It also does not mean that you can be reckless and irresponsible. ***Trusting in God means doing nothing wrong.*** Trusting in God is not cheating to solve problems, not threatening, bribing or manipulating people to get something done. Trusting God is being honest, *no matter what*. Trusting God means obeying Him even though you do not know where He is leading you. It means believing that He will provide even though you do not know how.

Prayer:

- † *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one*
(Matthew 6:13).
- † Pray that we as the agricultural community of Africa will obey God and not try to manipulate Him.
- † Ask that we will not test God's patience by listening to the devil and then trying to force Him to protect us from the consequences of our disobedience.
- † Pray that we will believe what God says about our identity in Christ and our relationship with Him.

Look at the sketch on page 42



Day 12

Third temptation

The devil failed with the second temptation too. When he realised that Jesus was determined to remain obedient to God, to do only what the Father commanded, the devil suggested that Jesus should do it in the easiest way possible.

Read Matthew 4:8-11. What does the devil want Jesus to do?

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1. *Take a short cut. Bow down before me once and I will give You all the kingdoms of the world. After all, that is what you came for!*
 2. *The reason the Father sent You is more important than your relationship with Him. The Father will be satisfied when all the kingdoms belong to you no matter how you achieve it. The end justifies the means.*

Jesus' relationship with His Father was more important to Him than all the kingdoms of the world. **He was not willing to jeopardise His relationship with the Father in order to carry out His Father's instruction quicker or more easily.** He knew that the devil was lying. If Jesus gave up His relationship with His Father His coming would be pointless. Because He chose His relationship with His Father above all the kingdoms of the world, He got both: a perfect relationship with the Father *and* all the kingdoms of the world.

The same thought lies behind the temptations you and I experience: ***Take a short cut!*** *There is a quick and easy way of achieving your goals. Just put God, your values, your conscience, your idea of right and wrong aside for a moment. Just temporarily! Quickly do what you need to do to achieve your goal, even if it clashes with God's Word and will. The end justifies the means. Once you have achieved your goal you can go back to the straight and narrow and carry on with God.*

This reminds me of two students who both needed a bicycle. One prayed and asked the Father to give him a good holiday job so that he could work hard and honestly and earn enough money to buy a bicycle.



The other student was not prepared to follow this arduous route. He decided to steal a bicycle and then to pray that God would forgive him. You will agree that this is ridiculous, but that is what the devil's argument boils down to.

The devil wants you to be so driven by your vision or goal (that may be good and praiseworthy) that you will put your relationship with God aside, just *temporarily*. However, it does not work like that. Set aside your relationship with God (*the Worship of God, His Will, His Word and His Way*) and it will cost you dearly. Your dream takes God's place and becomes your idol! And every idol is a tyrant, a merciless slave driver, a manipulator who robs you of your freedom and peace. Every idol leaves you feeling unfulfilled and empty. Every idol holds you captive in fear of punishment.

Be careful what you choose. **Choose right and you get much more than what is right. You get everything you thought you gave up when you made your choice.** Jesus chose His relationship with the Father above the kingdoms of the world – and then He got both (Philippians 2:9-11). Solomon chose wisdom above wealth – then He got both (1 Kings 3:5-14). If you and I choose the kingdom above all our temporary needs we will get the Kingdom and the fulfilment of all our needs (Matthew 6:33). We need not give up our Kingdom principles for our needs to be met.

Can you say what Asaph says in Psalm 73:25? What does he say?

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Prayer:

- † *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one*
(Matthew 6:13).
- † Pray that we will not take short cuts that are not "*God's Way*".
- † Pray that agriculturalists' relationship with the Holy Trinity of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will always be more important to them than their daily work, dreams, ideals, money and material success.



Day 13

Temptations: Take note of the lies but believe the truth!

What lies behind the devil's temptations is clear. He wants us to doubt what God says about our identity in Christ and our relationship with Him. Once we doubt God, we will stop trusting Him. And once we stop trusting in God for all our needs we will no longer attach any importance to *"the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God".* Disobedience inevitably follows and disobedience to God gradually leads to disbelief. The decline is clear:

- Doubt
- Distrust
- Disobedience
- Disbelief

The devil wants to lead you down this path of destruction.

As always, the devil uses lies and half-truths to make him even more successful. Take note of these lies or you may believe them. These are some of his lies:

1. God tempts you.

What is the truth according to James 1:13-15?

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2. There is no way out. No one can help you. No one will help you. You are alone. **What is the truth according to 1 Corinthians 10:13 and Hebrews 2:17-18? Write 1 Corinthians 10:13 down here.**

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3. You do not have the strength or ability to overcome this temptation! **What is the truth according to 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 4:7 and 1 John 5:4-5?**

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4. Sin may prove an advantage! **What is the truth according to Romans 6:1 & 23, and Proverbs 1:10-19?**

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5. Sin will not have bad consequences! **What is the truth according to Exodus 20:5 and Galatians 6:7-8?**

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The truth is: You can overcome every temptation. God does not tempt you, therefore you can and must ask the Father to help you not to give in to temptation (Matthew 6:13). You can also ask Jesus to help you when you fall into temptation (Hebrews 2:17-18). God is reliable. He provides a way out of every temptation. The **Way Out** is Jesus Christ! (Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 et seq.)

The truth is: If you believe in Jesus Christ you may be absolutely certain that God is your Father and that your relationship with Him has been fully restored. He knows what you need. He will take care of you and provide in all your needs. You can trust Him to meet your need for RLSA (Recognition, Love, Security and Acceptance). You can trust Him for food, clothes, a home and work. You can trust Him with your future and for the right marriage partner. God understands and cares for you. Your daily needs are important to Him (Matthew 6:25-34). You need not give up *"the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God"* in order to meet your needs on your own.

The truth is: God has already proven His love for you. He did it in the best possible way. No more proof is needed. Do not try to force Him to do it again and again by being sinful and disobedient.

Read Romans 5:7-8. How did God prove His love?

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Prayer:

- † Pray that Christians will believe that all temptations can be overcome and that Jesus is more than willing to help us when we are tempted.
- † Pray that you will never give up "*the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God*" to try to meet your needs by yourself. It is foolish and leads to enslavement.
- † Pray that all agriculturalists will believe the truth and the Truth.

Day 14

Stop! Consider what is really at stake

When you are confronted by temptation, you should immediately realise that you are being confronted by lies. Every argument the devil uses to tempt you is a lie or a half-truth. Every suggestion he makes is an attempt to mislead you. Every promise he makes is false. Temptation is primarily a battle for **truth** and not a battle for **power**. The battle is already half-won if you know the truth and are able to see through the lies.

In a valuable series of messages about the temptation of Jesus titled **Pause**¹, Andy Stanley says that we must remember the following whenever we are tempted:

1. There is always more at stake than you think:

- i. Your future;*
- ii. Your family, friends, and employer/employees' futures;*
- iii. Your faith in God.*

2. Temptations are all about your trust in God and not just a test of your self-control

¹ **Pause** – Because Everybody is Tempted (DVD 2006 North point Ministries, Inc. www.northpoint.org)



This is very true. Temptations are not merely about what is at stake here and now. Your response to temptation determines your future and your faith. By giving in to just one temptation you stand a chance of losing your name, your integrity, your job, your wife or husband and your freedom. Think about what I said earlier. Doubt in God's Word and truth leads to distrust. Distrust leads to disobedience. Disobedience leads to disbelief. [Stanley says, *You behave yourself out of a relationship with God.*] Disbelief leads to a life in darkness and a life in darkness leads to demonic influence and control. Demonic influence or control leads to pain and suffering! Your life is destroyed (Luke 6:49).

The pain of destruction is not limited to your life. When someone starts drinking to relieve his pain, his whole family and everyone at work suffers too. An affair that leads to divorce has far-reaching effects on the children. Remember how your parents' or employer's lives and decisions influenced your life. Perhaps you are still struggling with the consequences of what they did. Perhaps you are still suffering because of your mother's drinking or your father's affairs.

To prevent us from being blinded by the one thing that temptation emphasises, Stanley advises us to do the following: Pause and say something like the following aloud:

Temptation, you will not steal my future. Temptation, you will not ruin the futures of my children, my family or my friends. Temptation, you will not destroy my faith and trust in God.

Prayer:

- † Pray that you will not blunder ahead when faced by temptation but will pause and consider what is really at stake.
- † Ask the Lord to convince His children of the importance of praying the last part of the *Lord's Prayer*. Most Christians pray for the forgiveness of sin but very few ask to be protected from temptation and the evil one. Read Matthew 6:13.



Day 15

Misguidance (1)

You know when the devil is accusing and/or tempting you. However, you do not know when he is ***misleading*** you. That is what makes misguidance so dangerous: you are not aware of it. You are blind to it. Fortunately, we have the Word and the Spirit of God. The Word is the truth (John 17:17) and the Spirit guides us *into all truth* (John 16:13).

The devil tries to mislead us in three ways. Firstly, he does so through **false prophets and teachers**. The Word says you will recognise them because there is a difference between their words and their actions. They are wolves in sheep's clothing. They pretend to be good trees but they bear bad fruit and their fruit reveals their real identity.

Read Matthew 7:15-20 and Acts 20:29-31. What does the Word teach us?

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Stay away from such people (1 Corinthians 5:9-11). Do not follow such a church and/or traditional leaders. They are very dangerous because they will mislead you into believing lies.

There are also ***misleading (deceiving) spirits*** (1 Timothy 4:1). If the devil is the father of the lie then all evil spirits are liars, deceiving spirits. They flourish in darkness and falseness. Lies and deceit are their strategy. The only way to protect yourselves from them is by knowing and loving the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). Buckle the belt of truth around your waist (Ephesians 6:14).

The problem is that people do not know the Bible. They think reading a verse or two now and then is enough. Their ignorance makes it easy for them to be misled. Just listen to all the twisted notions people have about God. To their own detriment and shame, they believe things that are not in the Bible. They are making a VERY BIG MISTAKE. They are living as though everything they see, hear, think and believe is true. They are living as though the father of the lie is dead. They are ignoring God's command to live carefully (Ephesians 5:15-17). Life is more important



to them than reading or listening to the Bible and getting to know the truth.

Prayer:

- † Pray that the Word of the Lord will be *"more precious than gold, than much pure gold; ... sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb,"* to you and the agricultural community (cf. Psalm 19:10).
- † Pray that **you** will know, believe and love the truth.
- † Pray that **Africa** will know, believe and love the truth.
- † Pray that **agriculturalists** will know, believe and love the truth.

Day 16

Misguidance (2)

Besides being mislead by false prophets and deceiving spirits, the Lord also often warns us against deceiving ourselves. I will discuss this later but first want you to hear what the Lord says about it.

What does His Word say? When are you deceiving yourself?

1. According to James 1:22?

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2. According to 1 John 1:8 & 10?

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3. According to Galatians 6:3?

.....

4. According to 1 Corinthians 3:18-19?

.....



5. According to James 1:26?
-
6. According to Galatians 6:7-8?
-
7. According to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10?
-
8. According to 1 Corinthians 15:33?.....
-

All these sections make it clear that you are deceiving yourself, believing lies and giving the devil and his evil powers influence and control over your life when you believe the following:

You are deceiving yourself ...

1. **When you hear the word but do not do as it says** (James 1:22).
 "The Bible was not given for our information, but for our transformation." You and I cannot decide when and when not to obey God's Word. He is Lord and King and must always be obeyed (Luke 6:46). The Word must be obeyed. The truth must be lived (Acts 26:20).
2. **When you claim to be without sin** (1 John 1:8 & 10). We will later see that people in our *modern-feel-good-about-yourself-culture* try to rid themselves of sin by denying its existence. The Bible calls this self-deceit.
3. **When you think you are something you are not** (Galatians 6:3 and Romans 12:3). This is when someone has an attitude of *I am a self-made man (or woman)!* As a child of God, you are someone very special: you have special gifts and enjoy God's special care. But, you are what you are by the grace of God. You have nothing to boast about (1 Corinthians 1:30 and 15:10, and Ephesians 2:8-10). Pride and arrogance make you very vulnerable to the devil's onslaught (James 4:6-8).



4. ***When you consider yourself wise but do not have the law (Word) of God in your heart*** (1 Corinthians 3:18-19 and Romans 1:22, and Psalm 37:30-31). Beware of all kinds of clever, theological arguments that are not consistent with the Word of the Lord. The truth remains the truth, whether you believe it or not.
5. ***When you consider yourself religious but do not keep your tongue at bay*** (James 1:26). God is saddened when we say bad things about people instead of building them up or when we curse or swear at people (James 3:9-12). It grieves His Spirit (Ephesians 4:29-30). Do not negate your religion with your tongue. You are not serving the God of the Bible when you say bad things about others or curse them.
6. ***When you do not believe that you will reap what you sow*** (Galatians 6:7-8). Every conviction of your heart has consequences. The truth has good consequences. The lie has destructive consequences. All decisions have consequences. You cannot secretly dabble in sin and believe that it will not bear bad fruit during the following season (James 1:14-15 and 1 Timothy 5:24). Personally, I am convinced that the many violent crimes in our country are the fruit of the legalisation of abortion. I believe that abortion is murder (Psalm 139:13-18), a violent crime. Because we are sowing it legally by means of legislation, we cannot expect to reap anything other than violent crime. You cannot sow pornography in your mind and believe that you will not reap sexual promiscuity and sexual crime (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). You cannot consult the dead in the hope of a better life. Consulting the dead will result in life of despair and darkness (Isaiah 8:19-22).
7. ***If you think the godless will also inherit the Kingdom of God*** (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). The idea that everyone who dies will go to heaven is a lie, even if a family puts words to that effect on a tombstone. It is a lie that everyone has died in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:17-23), even though a cross is planted on most graves. It is a lie that all who have been buried will rest in peace, even if words to that effect are inscribed on a gravestone! This lie deceives Christians into believing that they can keep living their old godless lifestyle after they have been converted (Ephesians 4:17-24). The truth is that real faith is made visible by deeds of love (Galatians 5:6b and James 2:14-26).



8. ***If you believe you can keep bad company without becoming bad yourself*** (1 Corinthians 15:33 and Ephesians 5:6-8). You cannot relax in front of the TV if the content of the film or conversation is rated “LSVN”. Bad friends will have a bad influence on you (Proverbs 27:19). In Philippians 4:8 the Lord commands us to fix our thoughts on whatever is true, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – on anything that is excellent or praiseworthy. In Psalm 1 we read, *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men’s advice, who do not hang around with sinners, scoffing at the things of God: But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on His laws and thinking about ways to follow Him more closely. They are like trees along a riverbank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do shall prosper.* (Psalm 1:1-3. Living Bible)

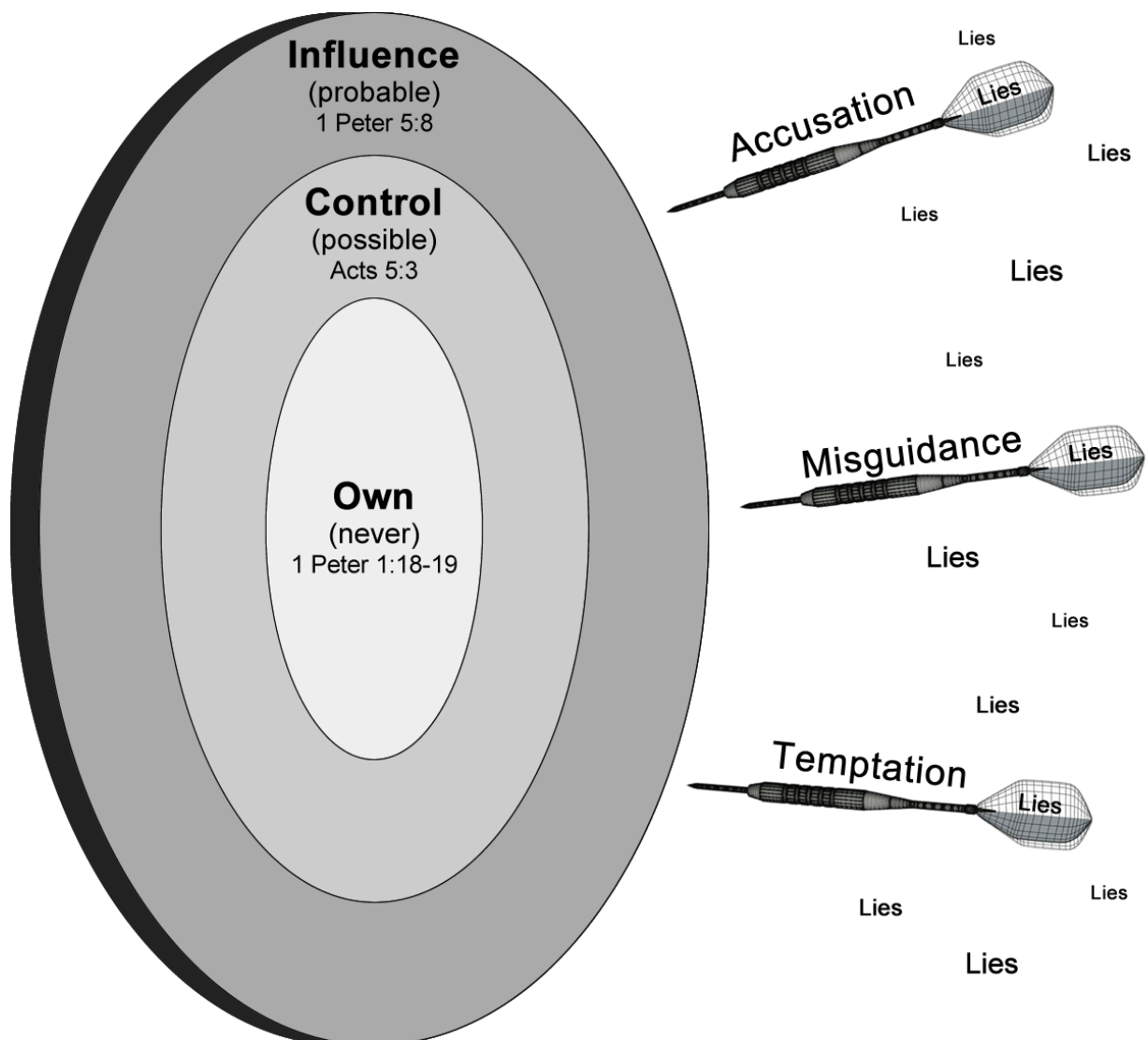
You are deceiving yourself if you believe the above. You are believing lies and opening your life up to the devil. You are giving him and his evil forces **influence** and **control** over your life. Protect yourself by clinging to the truth. Keep believing what is true (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Prayer:

- † Confess the sin of self-deceit. Confess the lies you have been or are still believing.
- † Pray the *Lord’s Prayer* as in Matthew 6:9-13. Focus on verse 13.



The following sketch sums up the onslaught of Evil. See a similar sketch in the book of Dr. Niel T. Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker*, p. 115



Day 17

Talk outside

When visiting the village of a chief in Africa you cannot just enter and make yourself at home. You are stopped at the entrance. An introductory discussion occurs there. *Who are you? Where do you come from? Are you here to see the chief?* Something similar occurs when you visit someone important at his or her office in the city. The receptionist asks the same questions. The reason is clear: It is dangerous to let just anyone in. The visitor may be a threat to the



businessperson or chief. Thus, you only gain entrance once it is clear that your visit does not pose a threat to whomever.

This is exactly what the Bible says we should do with each thought that “turns up” in our brain. Stop it outside the door. Ask a few questions and then decide whether you should allow the thought to settle in your mind. *Where does this thought come from? Is it true? What will happen if I allow this thought to become my firm conviction?* Remember: Not all thoughts come in peace. Some are a threat to your life and your freedom.

The devil is not like God: he cannot read your mind. He does not know what you are thinking or what you are going to say. He is a fallen angel – a created being. However, he can plant thoughts in your mind. Think about the evil thought he gave Judas – to betray Jesus (John 13:2). However, the devil does not identify himself when he speaks to us. He does not say, *Hennie, this is the devil speaking. Listen, I have a good idea for you.* He speaks in the first person in order to mislead me. He starts the discussion by saying, *I think it is a good idea to ...* He knows that I am more likely to accept his ideas and act on them if he makes me believe that they are my thoughts or ideas.

Listen to the good advice the Word gives us in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What must we do with each thought we have?

.....

Get Jesus’ “OK” before inviting the thought in and allowing it to become the firm conviction of your heart. Ask the following questions:

- Is this thought true?
- Is it consistent with what God says in His Word?
- If I act according to this thought, will I be obeying Christ?

If the thought does not pass the test, respond immediately by loudly saying, *This thought is a lie that wants to seduce me into disobeying Christ. I reject this thought and refuse to allow it to become the conviction of my heart.*

Here are some examples of bad thoughts:

- Sin does not always have bad consequences. That is just a story. A little bit of pornography could make my marriage more romantic.



- I am the product of my past. I have the right to be what I am because of the circumstances and culture in which I grew up. I cannot change. I do not need to change.
- I will get nowhere if I do not bribe people. What is so dishonest about it anyway? I am just helping someone to help me.
- God is just like my father. I cannot depend on Him. I have to perform to gain His favour. He will only accept me if I impress Him with my deeds.
- There is nothing wrong with racism. Everyone is racist. It is not my fault that I am a racist. It is because of the way “they” behave that I think and feels as I do.

These thoughts will have destructive consequences in your life if you accept them and allow them to become the conviction of your heart. Stop them outside, at the door, and send them packing.

Prayer:

- † Pray for the power of discernment so that you will be able to distinguish between the truth and the lie.
- † Pray that Christians will only allow thoughts that are **true** to become the firm conviction of their heart.



PART 4

Day 18

Victory and success are the result of a firm conviction

Jesus' identity and calling were clear from the start. **Listen to what the angel says to Mary in Luke 1:30-33. What must the Child be called and what is He going to do?**

.....

What does the angel tell the shepherds in Luke 2:11? Who has been born? What is He going to do?

.....

What does God the Father say in Matthew 3:17 and 17:5 about Jesus' identity and the relationship between them?

.....

What did Jesus say about His identity and calling in Luke 4:18-21 and John 12:49-50?

.....

What did Jesus say about His relationship with the Father in John 17:21-23?

.....

Jesus was absolutely certain of who He was and why He was born on earth. That is why He did not fall apart when He was rejected and chased out of the town in which He was born (Luke 4:16 & 28-30, and John 1:9-11). When He was insulted, He did not hurl insults in return. He did not threaten to take revenge when He was hurt (1 Peter 2:22-23). When He was falsely accused (Matthew 26:59-60), He did not lie to try to get Himself



out of it (John 18:38 & 19:6, and 1 Peter 2:22). He did not give in to temptation when He was ridiculed on the cross and challenged to prove His identity and calling by coming down from it (Luke 23:35-39). When the greatest injustice possible was done to Him, when He was crucified, He called out, *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing* (Luke 23:34). Because He trusted God for the joy God promised, He could endure the hostile behaviour of sinners (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Because Jesus was 100% convinced and certain of His identity, His relationship with the Father and His calling, Satan had NO power over Him (John 14:30). Satan could not use Jesus' **sin** against Him because Jesus had NO sin (Hebrews 4:15 and 2 Corinthians 5:21). He could not get a hold on Jesus by means of the **injustice and suffering** He had to endure. The joy and security Jesus had in His relationship with His Father was just too overwhelming! At the end of His earthly life, Jesus was able to say, *I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. It is finished!* (John 17:4 and 19:30)

If you desire victory over sin and pain you must, like Jesus, be 100% certain of your relationship with the Father, your new identity IN CHRIST and your calling. **You must know who you are and what you are doing here.** You do not have authority over the devil because of your education, age, job, experience, personality or gifts. Your authority over evil is found in your new identity IN CHRIST.

Prayer:

- † Pray that Christian agriculturalists throughout Africa will know what God says about their identity in Christ. Pray that they will believe it wholeheartedly.
- † Pray Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Peter 2:9.
- † Pray verse 1 of the song, ***Stand up for Jesus.***

Stand up, stand up for Jesus
Redeemer of the land
He's Lord of all creation
Victorious He stands

Let us all represent Him
And be His hands and feet
Let us fulfil our calling
As farmers on His land.



Day 19

The importance of your identity and your calling

A life of victory and abundance is only possible when you:

- ✓ Know that the relationship between you and the Father has been fully restored;
- ✓ Know what your new identity in Christ is;
- ✓ Know that God created and saved you for a purpose.

This was the key to Jesus' life of victory and abundance and it is the key for you too. Therefore, Satan does everything he can to prevent you from being convinced of these three things. He uses lies and half-truths to do so.

If he succeeds, he regains ***influence*** and ***control*** over your life, even though he does not gain ***ownership***. That is why it is so important for you to know the truth.

What can you have certainty about according to Romans 10:9-13 and 1 John 5:11-13?

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The good news that the Bible speaks about may be summarised in three words: **CHRIST IN US** (Colossians 1:27). The fact that Christ lives in us through His Spirit (when we believe in Him), negates all the devil's lies. *It proves that we are not worthless, unacceptable, unlovable or unimportant. It proves that we are not destined for eternal death.* How can you be *worthless* if Jesus was willing to redeem you by His precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19)? How can you be *unacceptable* if God is willing to live in you by His Spirit, to teach you to call Him "*Abba*", Father (Romans 8:9 & 14-17)? How can you feel *rejected* and believe that no-one loves you when God was willing to give His only, dearly beloved Son so that you may have life (Isaiah 43:3-4; Mark 10:45 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)? How can you be *unimportant* when you already have a place and position in heaven with Christ (Ephesians 2:6) and are God's heir with Jesus (Romans 8:17)? How can your life be without *purpose*? God made you the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16)! In Ephesians 2:10 He states that He saved you for a purpose. How can you be destined



for death if the Spirit of God in you guarantees eternal life and all the future blessings you will receive (2 Corinthians 5:5 and Ephesians 1:13-14, and Romans 8:12)?

Why believe the devil when he tries to convince you that you cannot rid yourself of your past, your failures, your sin and your pain? God made you a new creation IN CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:17). He no longer even thinks about your sin because He has already forgiven it IN CHRIST (Hebrews 10:14-18).

Stop believing the lies and half-truths of the devil. Believe what God says about your relationship with Him, your identity in Christ and your calling in His Word. This is the first step to a life of abundance and victory (John 10:10).

Prayer:

- † Pray that agriculturalists and their families will believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Pray that they will be 100% sure of their salvation. Pray for North Africa in particular.
- † Pray that Christians will know what God says about their identity in Christ. Pray that they will believe it wholeheartedly.
- † Pray verse two of the song, **Stand up for Jesus**.
Stand up, stand up for Jesus
All peoples of the land
Let's live and farm for Jesus
To glorify His Name
Let's conquer all the evil
And bring His Name great fame
Let us fulfil our calling
As farmers on His land.



Day 20

The truth about your relationship with God

The devil is the father of the lie (John 8:44), but God our Father cannot lie (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2). Because of God's reliable Word, you can know exactly where you stand in your relationship with God. It does not change daily even though you experience it differently every day. Regularly confess the following truths aloud:

As far as my relationship with God is concerned, I know for certain ...

- ✓ That Jesus bought me and paid for me in full (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- ✓ That all my sin has been completely forgiven (Hebrews 10:14 and 1 John 1:7)
- ✓ That I have been pardoned (Romans 5:1 and 8:31-33)
- ✓ That my relationship with God has been fully restored (Romans 5:1 and 8:1)
- ✓ That I have been born of God and belong to Him (John 1:12-13)
- ✓ That I am and always will be a child of God (1 John 3:1 and John 10:28)
- ✓ That I am a member of God's family (Ephesians 2:19)
- ✓ That His Spirit lives in me (Romans 8:9 and 1 Corinthians 6:19)
- ✓ That I may call Him my Father (Romans 8:14-16)
- ✓ That I have free access to my Father (Hebrews 4:16 and 10:19-22)
- ✓ That God is for me and not against me (Romans 8:31-32)
- ✓ That my Father knows what I need and takes care of me (Matthew 6:25-34)

Therefore, I reject all thoughts of being lost, unwelcome and alone; of having been spurned and rejected. I reject the allegation that I do not have a Father. I also reject the fear that I am uncared-for and unsafe. I am not an orphan. I do not need to give up "*the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God*" in an attempt to fulfil my needs on my own. My Father takes care of me. God has made me part of His family with strong family ties and so I reject the idea that I need to fend for myself.

I reject the idea that God wants to punish me and that I should live in fear of punishment. I reject the thought that God is against me and not for me. I reject the idea that the bad things that happen to me are a sign that God does not like me or that He is dissatisfied with me.

I no longer believe that I need to perform to be accepted by God. I do not believe that I have to do good things to deserve being God's child. I reject the idea that I stop being God's child every time I sin.



I reject all the claims the devil makes on my life and my future because I have been bought and the price has been paid in full.

Prayer:

- † Praise and thank God for the restored relationship between you and Him.
- † Confess the truth about your relationship aloud.
- † Pray that agriculturalists and their families throughout Africa will believe what God says about their relationship with Him.
- † Confess that you believed the devil's lies about your relationship with God. Confess that by believing his lies you gave him an opportunity to influence or control your life.
- † Pray verse three of the song, **Stand up for Jesus**.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus	let's do work of high standard
It's time to make our stand:	Rejoicing in God's way
To live and farm for Jesus	Let us fulfil our calling
'cross Africa our land	As farmers on His land.

Day 21

The truth about your identity in Christ

Many Christians have an identity crisis. Their view of themselves is formed by their past and by what people think or say about them. They see themselves as victims of people and circumstances, and even victims of the devil. Their never-ending search for identity motivates them to do all kinds of strange things, but their uncertainty just increases. Some become arrogant, proud, rude and dominating. Others are filled with feelings of inferiority and self-pity. If you do not know and believe who you are in Christ, you are playing right into the hands of the devil. Then he can tell you any lie and you will believe him. Once his lies become your conviction they will determine how you live. Thus, you are giving him an opportunity to influence and even control your life.



Because of God's reliable Word, you are able to know exactly who and what you are IN CHRIST. Regularly confess the following truths aloud:

As far as my identity in Christ is concerned, I know for certain that ...

- ✓ I am created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27 and Ephesians 4:23-24)
- ✓ I am God's idea and plan (Jeremiah 1:5 and Ephesians 1:4-6)
- ✓ I am God's handiwork (Psalm 139:13-18)
- ✓ I am God's property (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- ✓ I was born of God – born again (John 1:12-13)
- ✓ I am a child of God according to His promise (Galatians 4:28 and 1 John 3:1)
- ✓ God and His Spirit live in me (1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19-20)
- ✓ I have the Spirit as guarantee of what I am still going to receive (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- ✓ I am holy – set aside for God (1 Corinthians 1:2 and 2 Corinthians 1:1 and 21)
- ✓ I have been declared righteous (Romans 3:24-26 and 1 Corinthians 1:30)
- ✓ I have been pardoned (Acts 13:38-39 and Romans 5:1)
- ✓ I am one with Christ (Romans 6:11 and Colossians 2:9-10)
- ✓ I have been included in the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:1-11)
- ✓ I am dead to sin (Romans 6:11)
- ✓ I am alive to God – at His disposal (Romans 6:11 and 22)
- ✓ My sinful nature has been taken away (Colossians 2:11)
- ✓ I am victorious (Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:4 and 1 John 5:4-5)
- ✓ I already reign with Christ (Ephesians 2:6)
- ✓ I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- ✓ I have been equipped with the gifts and skills of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- ✓ I am a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8)
- ✓ I am heir to God with Christ (Romans 8:17)
- ✓ I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)

Therefore, I reject the idea that I am in this world *by chance* or that I am a *mistake* - *something* that should never have been. I am not a *mistake* just because my parents are not married and I do not know who my father is. I may make mistakes but I certainly am not a mistake or a failure. I am not accursed (Galatians 3:13) even if people curse me. I am not a child of the devil, but a child of the Spirit (Galatians 4:28).

Because I am who I am in Christ, I reject the thought that my identity is primarily determined by my nationality, skin colour, looks or gender. I reject the idea that I am inferior just because I am a woman or disabled



or young. I declare that my identity is not determined by how poor or how wealthy I am. My possessions and my level of education do not determine my value as a human being. Therefore, I refuse to believe that I lose my identity if I lose my good health or my possessions.

I state that I am not a victim but a victor. I am a child of the King and reign over sin with Christ. Sin does not reign over me. Because God is holy and He calls me holy despite my sin, I refuse to muddle along in sin as though I cannot do better.

I declare that my identity is not determined by the bad and painful things of my past because I am a new creation of God. Therefore, I refuse to believe that I have to live like someone who has been raped, rejected or cursed.

Prayer:

- † Praise and thank God for your identity in Christ.
- † Confess the truth about your identity aloud.
- † Pray for agriculturalists and their families throughout Africa to believe what God says about their identity in Christ.
- † Confess that you have often believed the devil's lies about your identity. Confess that by doing so you gave him an opportunity to influence and even control your life.
- † Pray verse one of the song, ***Stand up for Jesus***.
Stand up, stand up for Jesus
Redeemer of the land
He's Lord of all creation
Victorious He stands
Let us all represent Him
And be His hands and feet
Let us fulfil our calling
As farmers on His land.



Day 22

The truth about your calling

One of the *God's Way* principles the Bible is clear about is this: **God works through people!**¹ He created people to be His representatives. God created people in His image and He blessed them thereby enabling them to represent Him.

God does everything He wants done in the world through people. He wants to provide people with food every day (Matthew 6:11). He wants to give people clothes to wear each day (Matthew 6:25-30). It is God's will for us to eat and drink and enjoy life (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25). He wants His people to live in a land overflowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8). God wants to take care of all people, including the poor, the widows and the orphans. He does so through farmers (Job 31:16-21). We as agriculturalists have a special calling to produce a range of products on God's behalf so that people can praise and worship Him for His goodness.

Living and Farming God's Way is our calling. As His representatives, we must farm the way He farms. Thank the Lord for the privilege of being able to farm – to farm for and on behalf of Him! What a disgrace if we as agriculturalists were to cause famine in Africa because our relationship with God, people and creation is a mess; because we do not apply basic *God's Way* principles such as *a high standard, on time, without waste and with joy*; because we do not understand our calling or are bad stewards of our land; because we believe work is the result of the fall; or because we are lazy and ignorant. Let us encourage each other to stand up and fulfil our calling. Let us sing:

¹ Living and Farming God's Way: Basics, p.23-27



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus
 Redeemer of the land
 He's Lord of all creation
 Victorious He stands
 Let us all represent Him
 And be His hands and feet
 Let us fulfil our calling
 As farmers on His land</p> | <p>Let's conquer all the evil
 And bring His Name great fame
 Let us fulfil our calling
 As farmers on His land</p> |
| <p>2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus
 All peoples of the land
 Let's live and farm for Jesus
 To glorify His Name</p> | <p>3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus
 It's time to make our stand:
 To live and farm for Jesus
 'cross Africa our land
 let's do work of high standard
 Rejoicing in God's way
 Let us fulfil our calling
 As farmers on His land</p> |

This is possible, because based on God's reliable Word we know what our task and calling is. Regularly confess the following truths aloud:

- ✓ I am God's representative (Genesis 1:27-28)
- ✓ I have a job on earth: to live, work and conserve (Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:15)
- ✓ I have a task to fulfil in the world: to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)
- ✓ I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- ✓ I have a responsibility in the church: fulfil a function (1 Corinthians 12)
- ✓ I have been sent into the world (John 17:18)
- ✓ I am a witness for Christ in the world (Acts 1:8 and 1 Peter 2:9)
- ✓ I have a command from Jesus: to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
- ✓ I must work for the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)
- ✓ I have God as my Employer (Colossians 3:23 to 4:1)
- ✓ I have a daily task to fulfil (Ephesians 4:28 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)
- ✓ I have a duty to perform (Galatians 5:13 and 1 Timothy 6:2)
- ✓ I have an opportunity to do good (2 Thessalonians 3:13)
- ✓ I already reign with Christ (Ephesians 2:6)
- ✓ I have been equipped with the gifts and skills of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- ✓ I am a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8)
- ✓ I have been saved and called to dedicate my life to the good deeds God has destined me to do (Ephesians 2:10)
- ✓ I have people to feed (Job 31:16-21 and Matthew 6:11)

Christians cannot consider themselves unemployed or jobless unless they reject God and His Word. How can you be passive and lazy when



there is so much to be done? If you have been called to represent God? How can you feel there is no reason for your existence? Why do you want to die when life is so full of challenges? Why do you want to wait for someone to give you a job when God has already provided you with one? Do His work even if no one pays you for it. Be faithful in something you are not paid for and God will take care of you. He will see to it that your labour bears fruit, that there is food on your table (Psalm 37:25), clothes for you to wear and money in your pocket.

Why believe the devil's lie that says you are worthless when you have such a worthy job? The promise God made Abraham that he and his family would be a blessing to the nations applies to you too. You are a descendant of Abraham because you believe in Jesus (Galatians 3:29). Therefore, you share in the promise and calling to be a blessing to the nations.

Prayer:

- † Praise and thank God for the privilege of representing Him and doing His work.
- † Confess the truth about your task and calling aloud.
- † Pray for agriculturalists throughout Africa to fulfil the calling they have received from God.
- † Confess that you often believed the devil's lies about your calling. Confess that by doing so you gave him an opportunity to influence and even control your life.
- † Pray the song, ***Stand up for Jesus.***

Day 23

The truth about you as a person

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is three Persons but one Godly Being. We cannot fully understand the Holy Trinity of God, yet we believe it because that is how God reveals Himself to us.



God created people in His image. Therefore, you are also triune. We cannot fully understand this either, yet we believe it because that is how God speaks about us in His Word.

Listen to what the Word says in Genesis 1:26-27. How does this section describe people?

.....

How are people described in 1 Thessalonians 5:23?

.....

What do you read about Jesus in Luke 2:52?

.....

spirit = pneuma	soul = psuche	body = soma
The part of me in which I am bound to God and the spirit world.	The part of me in which I think, debate, make decisions, feel things and experience emotions, and in which I have relationships with people. [my will, intellect and emotions]	The part of me by which I live and express that which happens in my spirit and soul.

Keep the following in mind:

1. Spirit, soul and body can be distinguished from each other but together they make a human being. They work together and influence each other.
2. The Greek word *soma* is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 for the body. The word does not indicate something that is sinful or inferior. It merely indicates the outside, visible part of a human being as opposed to the invisible spiritual part.
3. Spirit, soul and body have **senses**: (for instance the ability to hear)
Spirit You hear God speaking to you.
Soul: Because of your relationship (good or bad), you hear something other than what someone is saying.
Body: You physically hear sounds with your ears.



4. Spirit, soul and body have an **identity**:

Spirit: Your identity is determined by your relationship with God: Are you a child of God or not?

Soul: Your identity is determined by your behaviour, your relationships, and your way of thinking and arguing. Your identity is determined by how others see you and how you see yourself.

Body: Your identity is determined by your gender, size, age and colour of your skin. Things such as your state of health or a disability are also determining factors.

5. The sin and disobedience of Adam had a destructive effect (death) on people – on their spirit, soul and body.

Spirit: The intimate relationship with God was destroyed.

Soul: The joy of work and the unity between people disappeared. We experience emotions of pain and suffering.

Body: Physical disease and death moved in¹.

Based on the above you may already declare:

- ✓ I am not the result of a long process of evolution. I did not evolve out of some kind of ape. I am not an animal and need not live like one. I was created in the image of God.
- ✓ One part of me is not better than any other. Nor is it inferior to any of the other parts. My spirit, soul and body are equally important.
- ✓ I am more than my body. I am more than my soul. I am more than my spirit. I am a human being. **I am spirit, soul and body.** I live from inside myself and not from the outside in. Therefore, I am not body, soul and spirit.
- ✓ I will not spend all my time, money and energy on the needs of my body. I will take care of my spirit, soul and body by giving each the attention it needs.
- ✓ I will love the Lord my God with my spirit, soul and body (Luke 10:27).
- ✓ I will not accept that my identity is only determined by my body.

¹ The Kingdom is coming in Agriculture, Hennie Viljoen, 2013, Day 24, p.57-60



Prayer:

- † Pray for insight and understanding of the fact that people are spirit, soul and body. Pray against the unbiblical dualistic idea that people consist of only two parts: a good part (spirit/soul) and a bad part (body).
- † Pray for insight and understanding of the fact that **people** in the agricultural community must be saved: spirit, soul and body - not just soul.

Day 24

The solution begins at the root

Because you and I are spirit, soul and body, we experience spiritual, psychological and physical problems and diseases. The solution to these problems therefore lies at a spiritual, psychological and physical level. You need to get to the root or cause of each problem in order to solve it successfully. A problem cannot be solved by naming it, describing the consequences or treating the symptoms.

We can distinguish spirit, body and soul from each other but we cannot separate them. They influence each other. The root of a physical problem may lie in your body, but it may lie elsewhere. The same applies to your spirit and your soul.

- *The root of your **physical** sickness (problem) may lie in your body **and/or** your soul **and/or** your spirit.* You may break your leg because it is weak due to old age (root in body). Your asthma may be the result of bitterness and an unforgiving spirit (root in soul). An evil spirit may make you deaf and dumb (root in spirit - Mark 9:14-29).
- *The root of your **psychological** problem may lie in your soul **and/or** your spirit **and/or** body.* (Remember, your soul is your will, intellect and emotion.) You may develop depression because you are being bullied emotionally. You may snap because you have been physically molested. You may become confused and mentally disturbed due to a chemical imbalance in your brain. You may hear



voices in your head because of drugs or because you tried to consult the dead thereby opening yourself up to demons.

- *The root of your **spiritual** problem may lie in your spirit **and/or** your soul **and/or** your body.* You may become spiritually disturbed due to your involvement in the occult - magic, exorcism, calling up of spirits (Deuteronomy 18:9-14) and idol worship (in other words, devils – 1 Corinthians 10:19-20). Reading books about the occult and/or watching films about the occult may allow the devil to get a hold on you and have a negative influence on your behaviour. You open yourself up to demonic occupation by being promiscuous.

If the false conviction of your heart (a lie that you believe) is that all problems (spiritual, psychological and physical) only have physical causes you will try to fix everything with medication. You will put all your trust in science and technology. You may often succeed, but chances are that many of your problems will never be solved because you have not found and tackled the real root of the problem. Medical science is a wonderful gift from God but it is not the *complete answer* to every problem. Psychologists and psychiatrists make a valuable contribution but they also *do not always have the complete answer*.

Bear in mind that many of your problems may have a spiritual cause or root. However, if you believe that everything is always only caused by spirits and demons, you will probably ignore science and technology. Many of your problems will not be solved because problems are often merely the result of the lies you believe, the sin you do and the pain you subconsciously carry around inside you.

Where does the root of your problem or problems lie? What prevents you from standing up and living a life of victory and abundance?

Prayer

- † Ask the Lord to give you the insight you need to understand that your problems may have physical, psychological and/or spiritual roots.
- † Ask the Lord to help you identify the right root to your problem(s) and to solve it (them) right there.



Day 25

MG's story of pain and sin

I am going to share the true story of MG with you (pseudonym used to protect his identity). I want you to consider the possible roots to MG's problems. Perhaps you know a similar story or have your own story to tell.

MG did not have close family. His mother said she wished he had been born dead because she wanted a girl (a curse and identity crisis). His parents gave him away and he went from one family to the next (rejection). Yet he appeared normal and had a good knowledge of the Bible. More than that, he had insight into the Word. He had a soft heart and was never aggressive. He was a hard worker who worked briskly. He often worked on his own. He was always grateful and very helpful.

However, MG's behaviour gradually started to change. He had numerous sexual relationships and even lived with a girl who had had many sexual partners (possible open door to transfer of spirits / bondage of the soul). He attended a "church" that did not proclaim the truth of the Gospel but communicated with the spirits of the dead (occult involvement). He started to believe that the other workers were against him. He said they made the plants he planted wither and die (magic) because they did not want him on the farm (rejection). He started talking about terrible things that were going to happen. He impulsively started doing things that were not his responsibility, making many mistakes in the process. Sometimes he just did not pitch up for work for days on end. He started seeing things no one else could see. He started hearing voices and "getting messages" in his mind. He started taking things out of his house at night and burning them. Although he never admitted it, the other people on the farm said that he was smoking dagga (drug use). His presence on the farm was a risk.

Because he was convinced that the others wanted to kill him, I invited him to come to us. He agreed to come and work for us. Everything went well at first, except that he took some wooden doors outside one night because he thought they looked like coffins. Then he suddenly disappeared. We followed him. He had stolen a sheep, tied it up with wire, thrown it over the fence and carried it a few hundred meters. Then he slit its throat and carried it further. Later he put it down and went on without it. Two days later, someone picked him up along the road. MG



told the man that he worked for me and the man phoned me. I went to fetch MG and we started talking. He said that he had decided to start doing everything everyone was accusing him of (voices in his head or demons?) so that the accusations could at least be true. He wanted me to take him to the police so that he could go to jail. I convinced him that things would be better on the farm than in jail and he went home with me. Everything went well.

A few months later, he was in town with me. I gave him his money to buy his groceries, etc. A few hours later, I received a call from one of my brown friends. He wanted to know whether I knew where MG was because he was sure he had seen him walking along the road outside town. I went to look for MG again. When I stopped next to him, he sat down with his head between his hands. I wanted to know why he had walked off and where he was going. He just kept saying that I would not understand and that he could not make a success of his life. He had to keep leaving everything behind and starting over (false conviction of his heart). The voice in his head kept telling him that he was destined to fail and to die (curses). He told me this often.

MG often prayed during morning devotions on the farm. He prayed in Afrikaans, English and Sesotho. I could not get enough of listening to his prayers. He knew the Word. He confessed Jesus as his Lord. Things went well for many months, but one day he disappeared again. He had broken everything he could in his house and just left the rest.

I found him in Bloemfontein a few months later. I offered to take him to a psychiatrist at one of the state hospitals. He agreed. The psychiatrist examined him and prescribed some medication, but nothing changed.

I do not know where MG is today, but I do know that he has serious spiritual, psychological and physical problems. I also know that the root of these problems is not just physical and cannot be fixed or controlled by medication. I know that MG can be healed and set free. His sin can be forgiven. His pain can be healed. Every curse can be broken. He can overcome fear. He can be set free to stand up! All this will be possible if he believes the truth and rejects the lies; if he confesses his sin and stops doing it; if he opens his heart and starts to talk about his pain.

What are you doing with your past? Are the convictions of your heart the truth? Or are they lies, holding you captive and preventing you from



changing? What are you doing with your sin and your pain? Your choice will determine your future.

Prayer:

- † Pray for the healing of wounds and forgiveness of sin - especially in your own life.
- † Pray for agriculturalists (employers and employees; men, women and children) who, like MG, are battling with many different problems. Pray that they will get insight into and understanding of the cause of each problem.

Day 26

Israel's story of pain and sin

(Moved out but never moved in!)

You already know that the LORD God responded to Israel's cry for help with compassion and love. God revealed Himself to them. He saved them with mighty deeds and they moved out of Egypt. They were destined to live in Canaan and enjoy the abundance of God's goodness (Exodus 3:7-8). However, most of them never entered the Promised Land (Numbers 14:26-35). Why not? I am convinced that it was because of their pain and suffering. They were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. They were abused and victimised. Their baby sons were put to death. Their basic rights were withheld. Subconsciously their pain and suffering influenced their way of thinking and lead to unbelief and disobedience.

When we read the story today, we find it difficult to understand why they thought and argued the way they did. Why did they find it so difficult to believe that God was able to fulfil His promises? They had already experienced so many miracles. Why did they find it so difficult to believe that Moses did not lead them out of Egypt to die in the desert? The opposite was often proved. Why did they want to keep turning back to Egypt despite the suffering they endured there? Why did they want God to keep proving Himself? Why did they keep turning their back on God



to serve idols (devils according to Deuteronomy 32:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:19-20) despite the fact that they were privileged to be His people?

Their pain probably played a greater part in all this than we realise. They were deeply wounded. The wounds caused them to believe lies about God, other people and themselves. Although they were lies, they had believed them for such a long time that they were convinced they were true. These firm convictions subconsciously began to determine their behaviour. And so in every crisis they believed that God did not love them enough to help them. They were so convinced that they were destined to be slaves that they wanted to be slaves. Egypt was all they knew and they were so convinced that nothing better was possible that they wanted to stay in Egypt. *“We couldn’t trust the leaders of Egypt and therefore we cannot trust Moses either,”* they argued. *“After all, Moses grew up in Pharaoh’s palace.”* As slaves, nothing they did was ever good enough and so they felt inferior to the people of Canaan and believed they were not a match for them.

Because they were not recognised in Egypt, were not loved, were never certain what was going to happen to them and were not accepted unless they worked hard and very well, they were convinced that they could not trust God either.

Israel’s pain caused Israel’s sin. They battled to believe the truth because they were convinced of the lie. Their unbelief led to disobedience, and their disobedience was the reason that they left Egypt but never entered Canaan.

Do not believe lies, because doing so will surely lead to sin, and:

Sin, unless it is confessed, always leads to wounds.

Wounds, unless they are healed, always lead to sin.

Israel’s story poses two important questions:

1. What must I do with my pain?
2. What must I do with my sin?

Prayer:

† Pray for faith and obedience to God.

† Confess your sin and pray that Africa will also confess its sin.



† Ask for the healing of your wounds and pray that Africa will also seek healing from the Lord.

Day 27

The big choice

The Bible's answer to the question about who has sinned and who needs salvation is clear.

Listen to the testimony of the Word in Romans 3:9-20 & 23. The answer is just one word – write it down here. Do you believe it?

.....
Since everyone has sinned, the question is: *What are you doing with your sin?* Probably one of the following:

- You are denying your sin;
- You are “spreading out” the blame and guilt for your sin;
- You are bearing the burden of your sin;
- You are confessing your sin and gaining victory.

You deny your sin: This is a very general response today. The word *sin* has disappeared from our vocabulary. Nothing is sinful anymore. The idea of sin does not fit into our modern *feel-good-about-yourself*-society. Therefore, people ignore the notion of sin and deceive themselves. Do not give your sin pet names. Do not try to justify yourself. Do not say, “*I am only human,*” and use your human weakness as an excuse to sin.

Listen to what the Word says in 1 John 1:8. What are people doing who say that they are without sin?

.....
Satan is lying to you when he says that forgiveness means that God is ignoring your sin. This is merely the devil's way of prompting you to ignore your sin. Sin is an awful reality. God does not deny or ignore sin when he forgives and pardons us. He hates sin. God condemns and punishes sin. He did so when He allowed Jesus, who was without sin,



to die on the cross as the cursed One (Galatians 3:13). Now He judges fairly by pardoning all who believe in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:25-26).

If God denied or ignored our sin, He would never have paid such an extraordinarily high price for it. Why would He sacrifice His beloved Son for an illusion? Something that does not exist?

Confess your sin because *sin, unless it has been forgiven, leads to wounds. Wounds, unless they are healed, lead to sin.* The devil is the one who wants the vicious, evil circle to start:

- ❖ sin leads to wounds
- ❖ wounds lead to more sin
- ❖ more sin leads to bigger wounds
- ❖ bigger wounds lead to worse sin
- ❖ worse sin leads to even deeper wounds that may result in death.

You “spread out” the blame for your sin: People are inclined to feel better (or less guilty) about their sin when they point out other people’s sin. The question is: Does my swearing make your sin of smoking smaller? Does my being divorced make your homosexual life style less wrong? Does my being lazy make your bitterness acceptable? Certainly not! Someone once wrote, *As God is holy, all holy, only holy, altogether holy, and always holy, so sin is sinful, all sinful, only sinful, altogether sinful, and always sinful.* Playing the *blaming game* is pointless. *It’s my wife’s fault that I am unfaithful. I grew up without a father so it’s not my fault that I No-one ever gave me a chance and so I can’t help but*

Listen to what the Word of the Lord says in James 2:10-11 and Romans 14:10-12. What do you hear?

.....

Confess your sin because *sin, unless it is forgiven, leads to wounds. Wounds, unless they are healed, lead to sin.*

You bear the burden of your sin: Are you filled with feelings of guilt, self-reproach and self-pity about your sin? These feelings do not solve anything. In fact, they merely make matters worse. Bear this burden and soon you will be saddled by another. You will try to rid yourself of



your feelings of guilt by doing good deeds and will become legalistic. You will keep trying to earn your pardon and to feel better about yourself by keeping the law.

Listen to what the Lord says in Romans 3:21 and Galatians 2:16-17.

.....
Do not try to bear the burden of your sin. It is unnecessary because Jesus has already borne it. Confess your sin because *sin, unless it is forgiven, leads to wounds. Wounds, unless they are healed, lead to sin.*

You confess your sin and gain victory: The only way to get rid of sin is with your mouth. Confess your sin! This is the only lasting solution. It is the only way to make sure that sin does not catch up with you – not even in eternity. This is the first step to victory over sin! Let us do it together.

Prayer:

- † Pray for sincere repentance and the confidence to confess your sin.
- † Confess all your attempts at getting rid of sin by denying that it exists; all attempts at making your sin seem smaller by putting some of the blame on someone else.



PART 5

Day 28

You have a choice!

(Bitterness or Forgiveness 1)

I hear stories of pain and suffering everywhere and from everyone. I am sure you have a tale or two about how you were robbed, assaulted, falsely accused, humiliated, misunderstood, rejected, insulted, raped or molested. How someone discriminated against you or how people you treated well returned the favour by treating you like trash.

All these things cause us pain and we try to rid ourselves of this pain in various ways. In the process, there are two advisors telling us what to do. In His Word God teaches us what to do when others harm us. But **Satan**, the father of the lie (John 8:44), is not behindhand. He immediately provides us with bad advice. He is not satisfied that you have been hurt. He wants to keep you from listening to God. He wants to increase your pain, to make it worse. He wants to destroy your life. He has always been a murderer. He is the thief, the roaring lion prowling around for someone to devour (John 10:10 and 1 Peter 5:8). Therefore, his advice is always bad and his solutions wrong because all who believe his lies and do as he says are on the road to self-destruction.

You are not responsible for *everything* that happened to you in the past but you **are responsible for how you respond** to what happens to you. You have a choice. Whose advice are you going to follow? You can forgive or you can take revenge.

Listen, the Lord is speaking to you in Ephesians 4:31-32. What is He commanding you to do?

.....

The Bible is clear about what we should do when someone hurts us or treats us unfairly. We must forgive all who harm us! Why? Because God forgave us in Christ Jesus. There are many other reasons why you should forgive, but this is reason enough.



By forgiving or pardoning someone you are untangling yourself from that person and that bad event. Then Christ can, wants to, and will heal your pain. However, He will never do so when you choose to be bitter.

The devil wants you to ignore God's advice. He tries to convince you that it is impossible to forgive someone who has hurt you so badly. He tries to convince you that revenge will heal you; that you will be set free when you keep someone captive; that you will get better by being bitter; that there is only one way to right a wrong and that is by revenge; that there is only one person who should get back at the one who harmed you and that is you. Of course, the devil never identifies himself as such. He never admits to putting the thought in your mind. He speaks in the first person. He uses the word "I", and so you believe it is your own idea and accept it.

You see, Satan succeeds when he convinces you that something is true. Your pain and suffering will lead to sin and the sin will lead to more pain and suffering. The vicious circle begins. Your life will become hell. The poison of bitterness will steal your joy and your freedom. It will make you ill and lonely and, in time, it will destroy you.

You cannot hold something against someone and remain free. Here is a practical illustration: Write the following down on a piece of paper, "I've got you!" Press the piece of paper against someone's back and hold it there – *against* the person. What happens? The person you are holding the paper against is free to do as he/she pleases, but you are not. You have to follow that person around in order to keep the piece of paper against him/her. You are no longer free to decide where to go, how fast to walk or whose company to keep. Your hatred and bitterness have given the one you hate and with whom you want nothing to do, the right to control your life. What a tragedy! **Bitterness is the poison you drink in the hope that someone else (the wrongdoer) will die.** Bitterness gives the devil a hold over you. It gives him access to your life so that he can continue his work of destruction in you.

The Lord warns you in Ephesians 4:26-27. What should you not do?

.....



Stop drinking this poison here and now. Choose: Do you want to be bitter or to get better? Do not put it off or wait until you *feel like* forgiving those who have hurt you. Do not only pray, *Lord, help me to forgive ...*

Pray aloud:

Lord, God, today I choose to forgive (person's name) for (name the issue). Although I still don't feel like doing it, I choose to obey You and to forgive (name the person) because You have forgiven me. I pray that you will take all the pain and suffering I have been carrying around with me for all these years away from me and that you will heal me in Jesus' Name.

- † Pray that Christians, Africa and all agriculturalists will choose to forgive and get better instead of living lives filled with bitterness.

Day 29
Clean houses don't attract flies
(Bitterness or Forgiveness 2)

Answer the following questions before continuing:

- Are you carrying **pain** around inside you?
- Is there an **open wound** inside you?
- Do you want to get back at someone? Do you want to **take revenge**?
- Do you **hate** someone who has hurt you?
- Are you **bitter** about someone who has treated you badly?
- Are you **refusing to forgive someone** for something he or she did to you?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, it is time to clean house.

Flies descend on a dirty house full of rubbish and decaying food. Dirt attracts flies. You do not have to make a scientific study of flies to get



rid of them. Just clean house and they will leave by themselves. Flies flourish in dirt and on open wounds. They leave when everything is clean and hygienic.

The same applies to Evil. Evil is attracted by the mess in our lives; by sinful thoughts and habits that have not been confessed; by wounds that have not healed; by a life that has not been cleansed by the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7-9). These things create an ideal setting for evil. You do not need to know everything about the devil and his evil forces to get rid of them. Confess your sin. Allow Christ to cleanse and heal your life and evil will leave by itself.

Listen, the Lord is speaking in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 and Ephesians 4:26-27. What do you hear? How does the devil get a hold on people?

.....

By refusing to forgive someone, you are giving the devil a firm grip on your life. He catches you in a sneaky way. Remember, bitterness is the poison you drink in the hope that the offender will die. However, the poison eats at you and you will die a slow and painful death. Bitterness has a destructive effect on your spirit, soul and body.

The effect of bitterness on your spirit: Your spirit houses your relationship with God. This relationship can only be open and healthy when your sin has been forgiven (read Romans 5:1). God can forgive your sin because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. But something can block the forgiveness God so freely grants us; something that can "bedevil" our relationship with God.

Listen, the Lord is talking to you in Matthew 18:21-35 and Matthew 6:14-15. What do you hear?

.....

The effect of bitterness on your soul: Your soul is your will, intellect and emotions.

Will: When you choose to remain bitter your **will** is in conflict with the will of God. He commands you to forgive and pardon but you **want** revenge. You **want** God's right to punish for yourself (cf. Romans 12:19-21). You **want** to play God.



Intellect: You keep ***thinking*** about the person who hurt you. You talk to him or her in your ***mind***. You ***formulate*** and reformulate the pain inflicted upon you. Like the wife of Herod Antipas, the grudge you bear makes you completely ***irrational***. You ***make stupid decisions***. She demanded John the Baptist's head on a platter, even though he no longer posed a threat to her (he was in jail). Read the full story in Mark 6:14-29.

Emotion: You carry the ***pain*** around with you. The ***pain*** makes you **sad, angry, bitter and unpredictable**. ***Self-pity*** keeps you busy full-time: *Poor little me!* You **feel** like a victim: *Why did it have to happen to me?* You live in **fear**: *When will it happen again?* Cancer does not remain in one organ of the body but keeps showing up somewhere else. Similarly, bitterness cannot be limited to one incident and one person. You become bitter about everything and everyone! All your relationships turn bad. In time, your bitterness contaminates others and causes a great deal of trouble (Hebrews 12:15).

The effect of bitterness on your body: A great deal of research has gone into this and the conclusion is always the same: Bitterness makes you ill! Physically ill! Your body is not able to process the poisons released by bitterness. Slowly but surely it poisons your whole body. There is always a new complaint.

In short, bitterness and an unforgiving spirit contaminate your whole being: spirit, soul and body. Your relationship with God turns cold and impersonal; intimacy disappears. You battle with your quiet time and feel as though your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling. Your heart is divided, your thoughts confused and your emotions unpredictable. You experience inner conflict. Your body snaps under the burden of bitterness. All of this happens because you have given the devil a foothold.

There is only one way to break the hold the devil has on your life: Confess your bitterness. Confess that it is a sin and that it is destroying your life. Do what God says: Forgive everyone who has harmed and hurt you. Choose to pardon them. Give up your desire for revenge. Leave it to God (and the authority He has placed over you) to take revenge and to punish when and if it is necessary (Romans 12:19 to 13:7).

Obey and forgive, and you will make a wonderful discovery: ***You are the one who is set free when you forgive and exonerate someone!***



Prayer:

- † Talk to the Lord about your pain and wounds.
- † Confess all your bitterness and your unwillingness to forgive.
- † Ask the Lord to help you clean house.

Day 30

Ask the Holy Spirit to minister to you

(Bitterness or Forgiveness 3)

Start by praying: *Father, I was lost, I sinned against You, I rebelled against You and I was your enemy. Yet, You loved me and sent Your Son Jesus Christ for my sake (Romans 5:8-10). You were merciful and patient with me. Your kindness led to my repentance (Romans 2:4). Jesus came and took my sin on Him. Therefore, You pardoned me (Romans 5:1). Because You have forgiven my sins, I choose today to forgive others of their sins as well and to pardon them (Ephesians 4:32).*

Because you have chosen to forgive and pardon others, you can expect the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, to speak to you. Ask Him to remind you about **everyone** who has hurt you and about **everything** they did to you.

Write down the names of the people that enter your mind. Do not start thinking and debating about them. Do not try to figure out why they have come to mind. Believe that it is the Holy Spirit who is reminding you and just write the names down. When no new names come to mind, write *ME* at the bottom of the list. You need to forgive yourself too if you are criticising or blaming yourself for something you did or did not do. You must believe that God has already forgiven you completely, or you will battle to forgive yourself.

Now take your list and start praying about each name individually. Ask the Spirit to remind you about everything that person did to hurt you or



everything that person (e.g. your absent father) possibly neglected to do. Write it down.

Now pray the following prayer: ***Lord, in obedience to You I now choose to forgive ...*** (name the person, or merely identify them if you do not know or remember their name) ***for ...*** (what the person did or did not do) ***because it made me feel ...*** (say how).

Do it with every name on your list. Do it with your name too.

Now pray this prayer aloud: *Lord, I confess that I have been bitter and vindictive. I confess that I was disobedient when I wanted to take revenge on those who hurt me instead of admitting that the right to punish belongs to You (Romans 12:19 and 1 Peter 2:23). I thank You for forgiving me for this sin. I choose to let go of my pain. I thank You for setting me free from all my bitterness and my unwillingness to forgive. I give up my desire for revenge and I ask You to heal all my feelings of pain and suffering. I pray that You will bless those who have harmed me. Free them from their pain too. I ask it in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen¹*

Day 31

Idol worship means entertaining lies and devils

(Idolatry 1)

Idols are nothing (1 Corinthians 8:4). They only exist in people's minds. However, that does not mean that idol worship is nothing. **Idol worship is rejecting God and entering into a relationship with demons** (1 Corinthians 10:18-22 and Deuteronomy 32:17). It is a sin with destructive consequences. It leads to a life of darkness. It is the beginning of a vicious circle in which sin leads to wounds and wounds lead to more sin!

Listen to what the Lord says in Romans 6:23. What are the wages of sin and therefore also of idol worship?

¹ Cf. Dr. Niel T. Anderson: The Bondage Breaker / with study guide - bl.230



.....

What, according to Jeremiah 2:5, happens to you when you serve worthless idols?

.....

Idol worship harms you. You wrong yourself. What do you read in Jeremiah 2:13-19?

.....

What is idolatry according to Jeremiah 2:20 and 3:13?

.....

Idol worship is not just something people from “*other cultures*” do when they bow down to tangible idols. Many people who go to church, who have been baptised and partake of Communion, are guilty of idolatry. Being part of a Christian group or institution is not a guarantee against idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:1-22).

Idolatry is loosening yourself from “*the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God*”. Idol worship is a rejection of the authority of the living God over you. Idol worship is giving something or someone else authority over your life. Idolatry is admiring and honouring something more than God. It is loving something or someone (it could even be you) more than God. Giving something or someone equal stature to God is idolatry. You may worship *no* god but God (Exodus 20:3). He demands undivided loyalty (Exodus 20:5).

This does not mean that God is selfish and that everything is all about Him. On the contrary, He is all about you. Because He loves you, He is your God (Exodus 20:2) and is able to provide for all your needs (Psalm 81:10). He does not want you to waste your life and mess it up by traipsing after worthless idols. He does not want the devil to get a hold on you.



To get up out of a worthless and meaningless life (because that is the result of idolatry – according to Jeremiah 2:5 and Isaiah 44:9, you become just as worthless as your idols), you and I need to rid ourselves of the idols in our lives. We must stop meddling with lies (Isaiah 44:20). Idols may be one or more of the following: (Numbers 2-5 are dealt with on day 32 and 33.)

1. Physical, tangible things

In Exodus 20:1-6 the Lord forbids the making of idols: things in the air, on earth or in the water below. The prophet Isaiah gives a gripping description of the foolishness and ridiculousness of using half of a piece of wood for firewood in your stove and the other half to make an idol to worship (Isaiah 44:6-20).

In Romans 1:18-32 Paul describes the destructive consequences of worshiping *something* in creation instead of the Creator. Idolatry is spiritual prostitution (cf. Judges 8:33; Jeremiah 3:1-10; Hosea 4:1-14, especially verses 9-13). This is the spiritual root of shocking sexual sins people perform (Romans 1:24-27). We will return to the spiritual root of sexual sins later. Idolatry is also the root of many other sins (Romans 1:28-32). No matter how hard idol worshippers try to create the impression that they are intelligent, they remain foolish (Romans 1:21-22 and verse 31).

Money has become one of the acceptable (tangible) idols in our materialistic world. However, the Bible teaches that a *spirit* (Mammon – Matthew 6:24) is hidden behind the god of money. We will return to Mammon on Day 39.

Prayer:

- † Pray that people will realise that worshipping devils is not only part of Satanism but also part of all kinds of idol worship.
- † Pray that people will realise that idol worship always leads to a useless, worthless life because idols are useless and worthless.



Day 32

The great important “I”

(Idolatry 2)

Idolatry is more than worshipping images or something else in creation. Idolatry is also worshipping yourself.

2. The great important “Me”

Pride was Satan’s original sin (Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4). Pride is giving up *“the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God”* and putting yourself on the throne. Pride is idolatry and idolatry is the rejection of the only true God.

Listen to the Word of the Lord in 1 Samuel 15:23. What do you hear?

.....

You are proud and arrogant when you think you know better; when you are racist; when you are over-sensitive; when you pretend to be something you are not; when you are always talking about yourself and your achievements; when you try to impress people by slating others or saying bad things about them; when you pretend *your* church, *your* family, *your* political party and *your* school are always best; when you claim the recognition due to God or others (your children, husband/wife, family, friends or personnel) for yourself – as though you are the one who is good or cute; when you refuse to admit that you have made a mistake and find it hard to apologise; when you order your wife and children about as though they are your slaves; when you use titles, degrees and position to try to gain respect but do not treat others with respect (cf. 1 Peter 2:17); and when you find it difficult to subject yourself to authority. Inferiority and self-pity are also a form of pride, because everything is still about you.

Remember: there is a vast difference between inferiority and humility. When you feel inferior, it is because you do not believe you are who God says you are. You do not accept the new identity He has given you. Jesus was and is humble (2 Corinthians 10:1), but He did not feel inferior. He understood His identity and calling 100%. Only when you know who



you are in Christ are you able to act firmly and with certainty without being arrogant.

The root to all this behaviour may lie in your spirit, soul or body.

Body: You may be arrogant because you are extraordinarily beautiful, strong, wealthy or clever; because you are very good at sports or have exceptional talents; because you are part of a particular group of people (belong to a particular race) or a special family.

Soul: You may behave in this way to mask your pain and feelings of inferiority. It may be a way of seeking recognition because you feel rejected.

Spirit: Perhaps this behaviour is a result of the fact that you are just too important to yourself because you have become your own god.

When people become their own god you can hear it in their statements about who they are. It becomes visible in their soul (will, intellect and emotions). For instance:

- *I am a free spirit!* What the person really means is: *I am my own god. I can do as I please. I decide about right and wrong myself. I ignore God's **Word**, God's **Will** of God's **Way**. That is old fashioned! I am my own norm. What is right for me is right. If I believe there is nothing wrong with free love then that is the way it is.*
- *I am a rational logical person!* What the person is really saying is: *Science and technology are my gods. I do not believe in things I cannot see or touch; I reject everything that does not make sense to me; I only accept that which I can understand – that which can be explained and proven. Science and technology have all the answers!*
- *I am an emotional person!* What the person really means is: *Pleasure and joy are my gods. Something that makes me feel good is good. Life was made to enjoy. I do not believe in sin because it makes me feel bad.*

These attitudes clearly demonstrate people's desire to be their own god. The great and important "I" really wants to be the centre of everything. Yet the truth remains:



Read James 4:6 and Proverbs 16:18. How does God feel about people who are proud? What happens to them?

.....

Ask the Spirit of the Lord to reveal any pride, arrogance, false humility or feelings of inferiority in your life to you. Ask Him to show you the fruit of these feelings to you because you will reach the roots through the fruit. Write everything down. Confess the fruit and the roots one by one. Call them by name.

Prayer:

Lord, I have sinned against You by believing that I can be happy and successful without you. I confess that my desires were more important to me than Your will. I confess that my life revolves around me and not around You. I confess that I have tried to rid myself of my pain and suffering on my own instead of bringing them to You. That made me proud and arrogant (or gave me a false humility and made me feel inferior). I confess that pride is idolatry and that I was arrogant to believe that I could take Your place. I confess that I wanted the praise and honour that are Yours for myself. I turn my back on pride and I reject arrogance. I choose to put others first and to consider them more important than me (Philippians 2:3-4).

I pray that You, oh Holy Spirit, will reveal all forms of pride and arrogance and false humility and feelings of inferiority in my life to me. [Read the above list again. Recognise and confess all those that apply to you out loud. Thank the Lord for His perfect forgiveness every time you have confessed something to Him. once again put your trust in Him.]

† Ask the Lord to free Africa and the agricultural community from idols.

[Read what else the Lord has to say about pride and arrogance: Proverbs 6:16-17; Proverbs 15:25; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 17:19; Proverbs 18:12; Proverbs 29:23; Zephaniah 3:1; Luke 18:14; Acts 12:22-2; 1 Peter 5:5. Read the book of Esther too and take note of the pride and fall of Haman.]



Day 33

More idols must be confessed

(Idolatry 3)

The first two idols we looked at were visible, tangible images and the great and important image “I”. There are three other forms of idolatry you must confess and stop doing. You will never enjoy the freedom and victory Christ offers unless you do so. The third form of idol worship is ...

3. Being involved in a non-Christian religion

There is only one true God through whom all people on earth can be saved (Isaiah 45:22). There is only One who brings salvation (Acts 4:12). There is only one God and one Mediator between God and people and He is Jesus Christ the Lord (1 Timothy 2:5-6). He is the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Him (John 14:6). Those who reject Him reject the Father (1 John 2:22-25 and John 5:23). Those who have the Son have life. Those who do not have the Son do not have life (1 John 5:11-12).

The idea that all religions lead to eternal life is a lie from the devil; that all gods are really the one and the same God is a lie. Those who believe these lies choose death over life. If you desire a life of victory, you must confess and break with Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Animism, African Traditional Religions, etcetera. You already know how to do so.

However, you need to keep treating all who follow these religions with love and respect. They will only believe and honour God if they are able to see God’s love in your attitude to them (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12 and 17, and 3:1-2).

4. To allow something or someone other than God to determine your identity and value

The highest authority and biggest influence you can give someone over your life is to allow that person (it could also be an idea or tangible object) to determine your identity and value. *Whoever or whatever you allow to determine your identity and value is your god because it has the highest authority over you and greatest influence on your life.*

Because God created you and formed you in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13-18); because He saved you and made you anew (2 Corinthians 5:17);



because He bought you and paid for you in full (1 Peter 1:18-19), only He has the right to say who you really are and what your value is. Please go back and listen again to what God says about your identity.

If you allow your physical appearance, other people's opinions, a lie that you firmly believe, the ugly or pet name your parents or someone else gave you, or the harm done to you (e.g. rape, rejection, curses) to determine your value and the way you see yourself, confess and turn your back on it. It is an idol in your life, because it influences and/or controls your life.

5. Strongholds in your mind

Strongholds in your mind are lies that you have believed for so long that you are convinced that they are true. These convictions establish themselves in your mind in various ways without you necessarily being aware of them. These convictions (lies) may be part of the culture in which you grew up. For instance, you may believe that the dead still have contact with and an influence on earth. This lie may be such a firm conviction that you keep believing it even though the Word says that it is impossible (2 Samuel 12:23 and Luke 16:26). However, contact with demons that present themselves to you as dead family and friends is possible. (We will go into this later.)

These convictions may also be formed by painful situations or the lack of **RLSA** (**R**ecognition, **L**ove, **S**ecurity and **A**cceptance) as a child. Because of your pain, you may be convinced that you cannot trust anything or anyone. You try to take care of yourself, your future, your happiness and your safety. You find it difficult to trust God because you only trust yourself. You become independent of God and expect everything from yourself. Thus, you become your own god.

Believing that marriage as instituted by God is no longer possible because of all the broken marriages you see, is also idolatry. The conviction has a firmer and safer hold (stronghold – 2 Corinthians 10:5) on your mind than the truth of God's Word.

When firm convictions (that clash with God's Word) have a greater influence on your behaviour than the truths of God's Word, you are busy with idolatry. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you aware of these false convictions. Loudly confess them one by one.



Prayer:

Lord, I confess that by my involvement with ... (name the religion and the specific religious acts you were involved in) I served idols and so sinned against You. I confess that I believed the devil's lies when I allowed ... (name the things and/or acts) to determine my identity and value. I confess that it influenced my life and my behaviour. I reject ... (name the things and/or events) influence on my behaviour and once again hand over control to You. I confess that what You say about my identity and value is the absolute truth. I confess and reject every lie that I have believed about any other issue (name what the Holy Spirit has convinced you of). Your Word is the truth. Help me accept it without hesitation.

Thank you that You have forgiven all my sin because Jesus has already paid for it in full. Thank you that in Him my relationship with You is as perfect as His relationship with You.

I confess that You are able to provide in my temporary and eternal needs. You can fulfil all my spiritual, psychological and physical needs. With You, I need no other god. I again commit myself to "the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God". You are my Alfa and Omega.

- † Ask the Lord to free Africa from idol worship.
- † Pray for the acceptance of "*the Will, the Word, the Way and the Worship of God*".
- † Pray that people's eyes will be opened to the lies and falseness on which idolatry is based. Pray that the "nothing" idols offer; the emptiness that it leaves its worshippers; the fear with which it holds people captive and the suffering idolatry brings in people's lives will make people return to the Holy Trinity of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pray that they will love, honour and serve Him (Matthew 22:37-38).



Day 34

African Traditional Religion

(Idolatry 4)

I referred to African Traditional Religion (ATR) on Day 33. I cannot explain and discuss the African Traditional Religions in full, but like Africa Mhlophe (a Xhosa from the Eastern Cape, South Africa) and others, I am 100% convinced that you cannot be a Christian and a follower of this religion. It is just as impossible to be a devoted Muslim and a Christian as it is to support two opposing soccer clubs¹.

African Traditional Religions believe many things that just are not true.

1. The ATR idea of who God is, is false.

The idea the ATR has about God has little in common with what God says about Himself in His Word. According to the ATR God is distant - far from and mostly uninvolved in people's day-to-day lives. The Bible teaches the exact opposite (Matthew 6:25-34 and Hebrews 1:3). The Bible also clearly teaches that God's character is above suspicion and that He does not have a dark side (1 John 1:5). This is not what the ATR says. How biblical is your view of God?

2. The ATR's idea of life after death is false.

The first lie is that the dead still have contact with, and influence and control over the living. The second lie is that the living influence the "peace" of the dead. The spirits of the dead are made restless, dissatisfied or even angered by the behaviour of the living. The only way they can be appeased and given rest is by means of sacrifice. The Bible clearly teaches that contact between the living and the dead is impossible (Luke 16:26). The Bible also teaches that life after death is only determined by life before death: Whether you believed in Jesus Christ or not. No one can influence your rest after death (Hebrews 9:27; Luke 16:19 et seq. and 1 John 5:11-13).

3. The ATR understanding of church is unbiblical.

Belonging to the Church of the Lord Jesus is more than attending church now and then, wearing special clothes, being baptised, wearing a cross around your neck, partaking of Holy Communion and

¹ Afrika Mhlophe: Christianity and the veneration of ancestors (Should a Christian consult the dead?) p 303



writing the word, *Christian*, on a hospital entry form. Being a member of a church does not necessarily mean that you are part of the Church of Christ. “Being Church” is being the Bride of Christ, His body. It is allowing Him to live His life in and through you (Galatians 2:19-20).

4. The ATR rejects Jesus Christ as the only Mediator.

The ATR believes in a pyramid structure of sorts. God who is distant and inaccessible to ordinary people is at the top of the pyramid. The spirits of the ancestors are in the middle and witch doctors and traditional healers at the bottom. Followers of the ATR believe that the ancestors are in God’s presence and that messages from them in fact come from God. The ancestors bear people’s messages to God. The Word clearly states that there is only one God and one Mediator between God and people, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5). The Word also teaches that the temple veil was ripped apart when Jesus died and that all believers now have direct access to God (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 4:16 and 10:19-22, and James 4:8).

5. The ATR believes sacrifices are still required.

The ancestors are rarely in a good mood and continually need to be appeased by means of some ceremony or sacrificial ritual. Although followers of the ATR do not have anything to give God, they are willing to pay anything to make a suitable sacrifice to their ancestors. When someone dies, a goat is usually slaughtered to accompany the one who has died to the realm of the dead. Later, a cow or bull is slaughtered to return the spirit of the dead person back to that family to guard over them. These ceremonies are usually accompanied by excessive eating and drinking.

The ancestors are incapable of accepting the sacrifices, so to whom are the sacrifices made? The Bible is clear: sacrifices to idols are sacrifices to devils (1 Corinthians 10:18-20; Leviticus 17:7 and Deuteronomy 32:16-17). This includes sacrifices to the dead (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:20). Those who eat the sacrifices to the ancestors do not have communion with Christ but with devils (1 Corinthians 10:18-22). This is contrary to what the Bible teaches us about true religion. Those who sacrifice to the dead and eat the sacrifices are not serving God but challenging and defying Him.



The Bible is clear about this too: Christ gave Himself as the final sacrifice for our sin. Our sin has been forgiven and therefore no further sacrifice is required (Hebrews 10:14-18). Further sacrifices are an insult to and rejection of the once-off and final sacrifice Jesus made. Doing so means that you have already been and remain condemned (John 3:18).

African Traditional Religion therefore does not have much in common with the true Christian religion except for a few superficial customs. If you still believe that it is possible to be a Christian without turning your back on communication with the ancestors, and the lies, sacrifices and rituals that go with it, I encourage you to read the book of **Afrika Mhlophe**¹. He discusses everything I have said here and much more in detail.

Prayer:

- † Ask the Lord to convince people by His Spirit that they cannot cling to African Traditional Religion (and all it entails) and still call themselves Christians. Especially pray that people in this tradition will make a clear choice for Christ.
- † Pray for Christians like Afrika Mhlophe who have decided to stand up for the truth against the idolatry of African Traditional Religions. Pray that they will not yield to pressure from family, friends and the community.
- † If you are still involved in the traditional religious customs of Africa in some way, confess and turn your back on it. Ask the Lord to sever the influence and hold the devil has over you through this religion. Pray and ask Him to set you free from fear of the ancestors. They have no influence or authority over your life.

¹ Afrika Mhlophe: Christianity and the veneration of ancestors (Should a Christian consult the dead?)



Day 35

The Occult

The word “**occult**” refers to everything related to evil spirits, demons and Satan. It also refers to all the actions and rituals people perform to honour these spiritual powers or to gain supernatural power and abilities, apart from the Word and the Spirit of the Lord.

Listen to what the Lord says in His Word. List everything He prohibits (in your interest) in Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and 32:17.

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The Lord’s Word is very clear: Witchcraft, magic, ancestor worship divination, sorcery, incantations and charms, calling up the spirits of the dead, sacrifices, faith in horoscopes, astrology, the casting of spells and curses, sacrificing children (and/or animals) to idols and honouring devils, etcetera are all occult practices which the Lord hates and prohibits (Cf. Leviticus 19:26 and 31). These things are always mentioned in the same breath as idolatry and devil worship.

Read Galatians 5:19-21 and Revelation 9:20. What is named?

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You cannot keep looking back if you want to go forward. You cannot get life by consulting the dead (Isaiah 8:19-22 and 57:8-13). The truth cannot set you free if you keep believing the lie (John 8:32 and 36). You cannot solve problems by getting involved in the occult that is the root of so many problems. You cannot drive out devils by the power of devils (Matthew 12:24-28). You cannot use *white magic* to try to overcome *black magic*. You cannot live in love and peace while being part of these awful practices that keep people shackled in fear (cf. Hebrews 2:14-15 and 1 John 4:19). You cannot expect the Lord to bless you when you do things He loathes (Deuteronomy 18:12). You are wasting your time and money if you believe in expensive sacrifices. Jesus gave Himself as the final and



perfect sacrifice. His blood was the last blood to flow. No other sacrifice is needed. Read this truth in **Hebrews 10:10-18**. Let it set you free: free to fearlessly stand up for Jesus and turn your back on the occult.

All attempts at using any of the above ways to

- *gain information about the **future** and/or*
- *gain **control** over other people's lives and/or*
- ***protect** your own life and/or*
- *gain blessings and **prosperity***

come from the occult. God forbids them all. Those who do so are calling down a curse over themselves. The Word of God is very clear about all these things.

Involvement in the occult is not limited to certain cultures or people. An increasing number of farmers are consulting sangomas to try to get their stolen cattle back. *Horoscopes* are a standard part of many popular magazines. Interest in television programmes about *the other side* is increasing. Satanism attracts growing interest and satanist signs are displayed openly. Slowly but surely the community is being brainwashed into becoming more positive and less judgemental about the *services* mediums and spiritualists offer.

Are you or have you been involved in any of the following?

- Have you ever tried to **gain information about your future** by calling up spirits, consulting the dead, horoscopes, visiting sangomas and/or fortune-tellers, reading tea leaves or your palms, etcetera?
- Have you ever tried to gain **influence over other people's lives** by means of magic, casting spells, curses, etcetera?
- Are you aware of specific curses people have pronounced over you? Are you living in fear because of these curses?
- Have you ever tried to **protect your life or the lives of your family** by making sacrifices; with the aid of sangomas; by burying *muti* around your home and/or sprinkling your house with *holy* water; hanging up horns or horseshoes at your door to protect your house; wearing amulets, pieces of string or lucky charms; cutting your body to rub in *protective medicine*, etcetera. You need to confess these things even if you did not do them yourself but know that your parents or grandparents did so with you or in your interest.



- Have you ever called in the help of people and/or spirits spoken about in Deuteronomy 18:9-14 to **gain blessings and prosperity for yourself?**
- Have you ever been directly or indirectly involved in **Satanism and/or Satanist activities?** If so, state when, where and how.

Prayer:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You alone are God. From eternity to eternity, You are God. I acknowledge and worship You, the One who takes care of me, protects me and holds my future in His hand. I confess that it is an abominable sin to seek help or advice from gods, spirits or the occult - as though I need more than that which You grant me.

Therefore, I confess ...

- ✓ that I believed the devil's lies;
- ✓ that I sought life and shelter from ...
- ✓ that I sought information about my future at ...
- ✓ that I tried to gain control over people's lives by ...
- ✓ that I sought blessings and prosperity by ...
- ✓ that I was/am involved in ...

I understand that I gave the devil a foothold in my life by doing these things. Therefore, I now turn my back on all these godless practices and pray that You will release me from the hold they have over me. I pray that You will forgive me and free me from the consequences of my foolish choice.

I accept Your complete forgiveness because of the sacrifice Jesus made for me. I pray for safekeeping from Evil and shelter from people who want to harm me. I choose not to fear their threats because I am safe in your love.

† Pray for everyone you know who is still caught up in the occult.



- † Pray that the Lord will set Africa and the entire agricultural community free from all these abominable practices.
- † Pray that people will once more believe that all our spiritual needs can be completely fulfilled in an intimate walk with God and the infilling of His Holy Spirit. You and I need nothing and no one else.

Depending on how deeply you were involved with the devil you might need more help to be completely set free. I want to encourage you to read the works of Dr. Niel T. Anderson that are listed at the back of this Prayer Focus. I encourage you to walk the path with fellow believers. Help is available. Make sure that you get it!

Day 36

The abuse of a wonderful gift

(Sexual sins 1)

Sex and sexual fulfilment is a wonderful gift from the Lord. People are different to animals in that people can have sex even when a woman's body is not ready for conception. The Lord made people like that so that men and women could regularly enjoy sex and sexual fulfilment (Proverbs 5:19). Unity between husband and wife result in sexual fulfilment and sexual fulfilment leads to unity between husband and wife. Sex in marriage is a way of glorifying God through your body (1 Corinthians 6:18 to 7:5. Remember that the original text was not divided into verses and chapters. It was done later to facilitate reference).

However, Satan came to rob, slaughter and destroy the sexual as well. Through his lies he deceives people into using this wonderful gift in a destructive way (Read Leviticus 20:10-24). Israel was warned that sexual licentiousness would make the land so sick that it would literally vomit them out. Sexual licentiousness threatens people's lives and survival.



Listen to the Word in 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 7:5. What do you hear?

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I may lend my car to someone to spread the Word of the Lord, or to rob a bank. The problem is not the car. The question is: At whose disposal do I place it? For what do I use it? In Romans 6:13 Paul writes that we must not make any part of our body available to sin, but that we must put each part at God's disposal to do His will.

People are spirit, soul and body.

spirit = pneuma The part of me by which I am bound to God and the spirit world.	soul = psuche The part of me in which I think, argue and debate, decide, sense and feel things, and have relationships with people. [my <u>w</u> ill, my <u>i</u> ntellect, my <u>e</u> motions]	body = soma The part of me in which I live and give expression to what is going on in my spirit and my soul.
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When people have sex, it is more than the coming together of two bodies. It is two people. Their whole being is involved: *spirit, soul and body!* These three have a great influence on each other.

The Bible teaches that ***two people become one*** when they have sexual intercourse. That is what makes sexual intercourse before and outside marriage so dangerous – so deadly (Proverbs 5:1-23 and 6:20 to 7:27). When the physical deed is done it does not mean that everything is over and done with at a spiritual level or at the level of the soul.

In your soul, you **WANT** to have sex with that person again. You desire him or her – because stolen fruit is so sweet. In your soul you keep **THINKING** about the other person long after you have put your clothes back on. You debate the issue and find all kinds of reasons why what you did was not wrong. You justify yourself. You compare the experience with earlier experiences. The images remain in your mind. In your soul, you remain **EMOTIONALLY** tied to the other person. You miss and desire him or her, you are in love, and you feel good when you think about him or her. ***Your souls have been bound to each other. The tie needs to be broken.***



There is unity at a spiritual level too. One of the ways in which spirits and demons enter people's lives is by sex. Evil spirits and demons are literally "bred" (transferred) by extramarital and sinful sexual relationships. In loose sexual relationships, you do not know with whom your partner has already slept; whether any of their previous partners were involved in the occult or satanist activities and practices. You do not know how *contaminated* they are – possibly with more than the HIV/Aids virus. Sin performed with your body separates you from God at a spiritual level and opens the door to the world of evil spirits and demons. That is why sexual orgies form part of satanist and other occultic initiation ceremonies.

Thus, all extra-marital sexual relationships must be confessed individually and specifically! The *soul bonds* must be severed (cancelled) and unwelcome spirits and demons must be commanded to leave.

Something similar can happen by means of rape or molestation. The victim may never want to have sex again; may be negative about sex and consider it dirty and ugly; and may have painful thoughts about sex. Even a victim who is happily married and has never had sexual problems in marriage before being raped may be unable to enjoy sex or achieve sexual fulfilment. Praise the Lord; there is healing and deliverance in His Name!

There are very specific questions to be answered and confessed in the following sections. If you are afraid of bringing these things into the light, remember:

- ✓ Jesus is a very strong Saviour;
- ✓ If you believe in Jesus these sins have already been forgiven;
- ✓ Jesus is not wagging an accusing finger at you or judging you. He is next to you, working in you to help you conquer this sin and put it behind you.

I encourage you to bring these things to the Lord one by one. But be sensitive. Do not broadcast it to the world. That may do more harm than good. It may help to talk to someone you can trust but remember the golden rule: Men talk to men and women talk to women. When necessary a couple may talk to another couple. However, NEVER tell anyone anything that someone has told you in confidence!



Prayer:

- † Pray that marriage as instituted by God will be restored to its place of honour (Matthew 19:4-6). Pray that every man will have only one wife and every woman only one husband. Pray that husband and wife will share the responsibility for the care, upbringing and safety of their children.
- † Pray for sexual purity inside and outside marriage.
- † Pray that people will realise the danger of sexual licentiousness and the destructive effect it has on individuals, marriage, families, communities and countries. The effect becomes visible in every area: health, upbringing, economy, productivity and labour, crime and violence, etcetera.

Day 37

Identify the root – conquer the consequence

(Sexual sin 2)

Immorality and sexual licentiousness are the order of the day in the community in which I live: teenage pregnancy; extra-marital sexual relationships; anonymous and absent fathers; sexual activities and games between children (some as young as 6); rape inside and outside marriage; molestation inside and outside families; pornography, etcetera. Although most of the people in the community agree that these things are wrong, almost all the women have their first children before they are married. Some women have many children without ever getting married or being involved in a permanent relationship. What is the root of this pandemic? Clearly, it is not merely a physical problem. It cannot only be attributed to poverty!

We may never reach the point where sexual sin becomes acceptable or excusable. Listen to what the Word of the Lord says in Galatians 5:19 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.



Physical whoring is usually preceded by **spiritual whoring**. Spiritual whoring is idolatry and idolatry is spiritual whoring (cf. Jeremiah 3:1-10; Hosea 4:1-14, take note of verses 9-13). Therefore the Word often repeats that Israel went whoring after other gods (Judges 8:33). In Romans 1:18-32 Paul describes the destructive consequences of people who worship *something* in creation instead of the Creator. This is the spiritual root of abominable sexual sins people perform with their bodies (Romans 1:24-27). I am not saying that idolatry is the only root to whoring, but according to the Word, it is one of the thick, strong roots. Therefore, to gain victory over sexual sins, all idolatry must first be acknowledged and confessed. The idols must go before sexual transgressions can be successfully addressed. If the idolatry of the forefathers is not confessed (whether it be the worship of the sun, moon and stars or modern idols such as money or ideologies such as apartheid, etcetera – see Day 31-33), the spirit of whoring may manifest as sexual licentiousness in the descendants.

Sexual licentiousness (including homosexual and lesbian behaviour) may be the result of **absent fathers** no matter the reason for their being absent - work, divorce, evasion of responsibility, ideology such as apartheid and/or migrant labour, etcetera.

It is a lie from the devil that you may satisfy your sexual needs in ways that clash with the Word and will of the Lord. ***All attempts at satisfying your sexual needs in ways that are contrary to the Lord's Word will always lead to addiction and never to fulfilment!*** [This applies to all needs.] You become addicted to sex, pornography, sex talk and jokes. The more you get the more you want but the more empty you will feel afterwards. Just like an alcoholic who keeps looking for another drink (Proverbs 23:29-35), the sex addict futilely keeps looking for sexual fulfilment. The addiction determines your behaviour and is therefore a form of idolatry that must be confessed.

All sexual sins must be confessed and the soul bonds broken. Answer the following questions honestly and very specifically:

- Do you watch pornography? Are you addicted to it? Do you own pornographic books or magazines? Do you watch it on the internet or on your cell phone?
- Are you or have you ever been involved in extra-marital sexual relationships? Name all the relationships.



- Have you ever been involved in a lesbian and/or homosexual relationship? Confess each one.
- Have you ever had sex with an animal?
- Have you ever molested and/or raped anyone?
- Have you been molested and/or raped?
- Have you ever been involved in paid sex?
- Have you ever had sex as part of occult rituals, and/or have you been present at such rituals? (For example, when someone becomes part of a certain group, organisation, cult, etcetera.)
- Are you or were you married to someone who slept around or had sex outside marriage?
- Do you have *sexual relationships* in your thoughts or by means of the cell phone or internet?
- Do you tell vulgar, dirty or sex jokes? Do you often make such comments? (Remember that sexual licentiousness is never funny. Christ paid a very high price for our sexual barbarism.)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I believe and confess that you bought me by your precious blood and that I do not belong to myself. I confess that my body is the home (temple) of the Holy Spirit and that I may not use it for illicit sex. I thank You for the wonderful gift of sex that you gave us to enjoy in a lifelong monogamous marriage.

I confess that I abused this gift by ... (be specific - look at the above list) and ask You to please forgive me.

I specifically confess that I had sex before or outside marriage with ... (name the person(s) and/or times one by one. This includes molestation and rape if you were involved in them) and in your Name I break the soul bonds that originated between me and ... (name the other party). I pray that you will forgive me and free me from all the spirits and/or demons that gained access to me by means of this (these) sexual relationship(s). I once again commit myself to You and ask You to help me to have an



intimate relationship with You. I pray that You will cleanse my mind and heal my emotions.

I again put my body at Your disposal to use for Your work and to Your glory. I pray that You will make me faithful to my marriage partner (if you are married). Let me not fall into temptation. Deliver me from evil.

I pray that you will also forgive and heal everyone with whom I have ever had sex. I pray that they will also get to know you and gain victory over this sin.

† Pray 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 for yourself, your children and family, and your friends and fellow agriculturalists. Pray for Africa.

Day 38

Identify and conquer the Jezebel spirit

Although this spirit existed before queen Jezebel lived, the name, ***Jezebel spirit*** is connected to the spirit and attitude of Jezebel, king Ahab's wife (1 Kings 16:29-33 and chapters 18 to 21). Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of his predecessors (1 Kings 16:30). However, his marriage to Jezebel was the worst. She seduced him and manipulated him into serving her people's idols (1 Kings 16:31 and 18:18). This section makes it clear that Jezebel did everything possible to wipe out the worship of God and replace it with idol worship. She put the Lord's prophets to death (1 Kings 18:4) and 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah ate at her table (1 Kings 18:18-19).

The primary goal of the Jezebel spirit is to seduce people into idol worship and to keep them captured in outward forms of religion.

The *Jezebel spirit* can also occur in men. Someone who is controlled by this spirit cannot stand not being in control. Someone with this spirit may seem meek, but this is usually just a sneaky method of



manipulation. These people always want to have the last word; always be the top dog. Jezebel isolates the people under her control. No one is allowed near them, because the Jezebel spirit is usually extremely selfish, jealous and possessive (James 3:13-18).

The Jezebel spirit's salient attributes are to:

- Dominate (to always get her way);
- Intimidate (to frighten people and threaten them if they don't do as she says);
- Manipulate (to misuse people; to make people do something against their will);
- Control (have a bad influence on people).

*"Depending on the territory she has pegged out for herself she will make use of intimidation to gain and keep control. She will use any method possible including tantrums, violence, threats, withholding rights and privileges, the silent treatment, insults, criticism, moodiness, negativity, perfectionism, oversensitivity and fussiness among others. Jezebel will use any method to control her "palace". Without hesitation, she will use blackmail or sex to keep her marriage partner locked to her rules. ... She "keeps record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:5) and may even remember the slightest incident for years and use it later to intimidate her partner."*¹

Someone under the control of a *Jezebel spirit* usually seeks out someone with an *Ahab spirit*. That is someone who does not know and understand his identity and calling – a victim! Slowly but surely, deliberately and with careful planning, victims are isolated, their self-image destroyed, their identity questioned, their resistance and their will are broken. Then, when they are pathetic and isolated, entangled in lies and paralysed by fear, the table is set for the *Jezebel spirit* to manipulate, dominate and intimidate them through someone she controls. [The extent of the manipulation, domination and intimidation always depends on the extent to which the manipulator succeeds in frightening the victim. The more frightened the victim, the more successful the manipulation, domination and intimidation. The onslaught is even more successful if the victim believes the lie that there is no way out (for whatever reason)].

¹ Hendrik Venter: Bevryding p. 173-174.



Because the victim is first isolated from family and friends, the terrible way in which he or she is manipulated, dominated and intimidated often remains secret for years. No one suspects how bad or demonic the onslaught really is. I cannot emphasise it enough: **domination, manipulation, intimidation and fear are not God's way. It is Satan's way of going about things.** You need not feel guilty when you reach the point where you cry out, *"Enough is enough!"* even though the devil will try to make you feel guilty about trying to get out of your relationship with someone who has a *Jezebel spirit*.

Sangomas gain influence and a hold over people by means of the *Jezebel spirit*. Sangomas are paid and feared and their advice is followed to the letter. To many people their word has just as much or even more authority than the Word of God. When looking at how some spiritual leaders go about things it is clear that they are also under the influence of the *Jezebel spirit*, instead of the Holy Spirit. Members of the congregation are kept ignorant because that makes them easier to intimidate. They are isolated and forbidden from attending other churches. They are threatened that the *church* will not bury them if they do not do exactly what the *church* demands. This results in terrible fear because funerals are very important in Africa.

Perhaps you are under the influence and control of the *Jezebel spirit*. But perhaps you are living with someone under the influence and control of the *Jezebel spirit*, and have allowed the *Ahab spirit* to influence and/or control your life. You feel inferior and guilty. Wrongly, you believe that everything is always your fault. You allow yourself to be intimidated and dominated. You are too frightened to stand up and have your say. It is a sin to allow someone with the *Jezebel spirit* to dominate and control you. You are giving that person the right over you that God should have.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if you are being influenced and/or controlled by the *Jezebel spirit* or the *Ahab spirit*. Confess your sin and put an end to this kind of behaviour.

What is the Lord's clear instruction in Galatians 5:25? Who should determine our behaviour?

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Prayer:

- † Confess any and all intimidation, manipulation and domination. Confess your inclination to be controlled by someone else.
- † Confess your attempts at frightening people so that you can have your own way.
- † Confess that you have allowed someone with a *Jezebel spirit* to determine your behaviour instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to do so.
- † Confess any hate and enmity towards those who serve the Lord sincerely. Confess all idolatry and dead religion.
- † Pray for all who are slaves to the *Jezebel spirit*. Pray for all who she holds captive by fear.

Day 39

God's love as a warning

Let us return to the beginning. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. Their lives were miserable. In their **distress**, they called to the Lord and their cry for help touched His heart. He **understood** what they were going through and took pity on them. He used signs and wonders to **save** them from Egypt and **promised** to lead them to a good and vast land, a land of milk and honey (Exodus 3 to 14). However, although they were all saved from Egypt, most of them never entered Canaan. How tragic! Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. Paul reminds the Corinthians of the history of Israel and states why he does so twice.

What does he say in verse 6?

What does he say in verse 11?

Why did most of the people die in the desert? What five reasons does Paul give?

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Because God loves you, He wants you to experience the fullness and abundance He has promised. Only He can give you this full, eternal life (John 10:10-11), **He warns you in good time. Because of His love, He warns you today, before it is too late.** Hear the message of 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. Going along with the Church of the Lord Jesus, being baptised like everyone else and sharing in Holy Communion with them does not necessarily mean that God is satisfied with your life. Just as a woollen jersey does not make you a sheep or a leather jacket does not make you a cow, church clothes do not make you a Christian. The devil with his lies tries to make us believe that we can live as we please as long as we do the things the *Lord's people* do. He says that God will be satisfied if you belong to a church, have been baptised, attend church for Communion and fill in your church affiliation on a hospital form. After all, you qualify to wear your church's unique and colourful clothes, wear a cross around your neck and put Bible verses up in your home. You maintain the church's traditions and pay your dues as required by the church (preferably as little as possible). You own a Bible although you never read it.

Nowhere does God say that He is satisfied by outward religion. Even though most agriculturalists and most people in South Africa and Africa practice this kind of religion, God does not approve it.

This watered-down, traditional, so-called Christian religion in which everyone is *the Lord's child* is really only idolatry. **You may not follow the crowd in doing wrong** (Exodus 23:2a)!

We have already looked at most of the sins that prevented the majority of Israelites from entering Canaan. Let us briefly look at the first sin mentioned in 1 Corinthians 10, namely **evil (sinful) desires**. This includes all the things to which we have already referred: the desire to provide for all my needs myself immediately and in my own way; the desire for revenge; the desire to build my own kingdom and to ignore God's Kingdom; the desire to make a name for myself and to forget God's Name; the desire to do as I please while ignoring *God's Word, God's Will and God's Way*.



In 1 Timothy 6:6-10 we read about a particular bad desire against which the Lord warns us. What is it?

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Think about how important money is to you and how much hope and trust you put in money (1 Timothy 6:17-20). **Ask the Holy Spirit** to help you be truthful about it: *Has money become my god?* It happens more easily than you think. But remember, the idol is nothing – money is just paper and metal. However, those who admire and love idols are worshipping devils. Behind every idol there is a demon (1 Corinthians 10:18-22). Mammon hides behind money (Matthew 6:24). There is no in-between. It is God or Mammon. It is the cup and the table of devils or the cup and the table of the Lord Jesus. You and I have been called to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to us – whether it be little or a lot. We have no instruction from the Lord to pursue money, wealth, comfort, leisure and pleasure. That these things determine the quality of your life is a lie from the devil. The Lord Jesus said exactly the opposite (Luke 12:15).

Do not allow anyone to mislead you. The wealth and luxury in which some people live (church and spiritual leaders too) does not mean that they have the Lord's favour and approval. The same is true of poverty. Poverty does not prove that God likes you less. You cannot earn anything from the Lord by being poor. **God's children may be rich or poor.** Some were very poor (2 Kings 4:1-7 and Luke 21:1-4) and others were rich (Matthew 27:57), **but all His children must be responsible stewards** of the little or much entrusted to them by God.

What is the Lord's message to all His children through John? Read 1 John 2:12-17.

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Read Ephesians 5:5. It is impossible to love money and to be part of the Kingdom of God. A love of money is manifest in greed and greed is idolatry. Idolatry is being part of the kingdom of darkness, of Evil. You cannot be part of both kingdoms simultaneously (1 Corinthians 10:18-22). It is one or the other (Colossians 1:13). It is God or Mammon, but not both.



Prayer:

- † Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if money has become your god.
- † Confess any greed, dishonesty, burglary, fraud, bribery, exploitation, stinginess, tax evasion, etcetera in your life. These are all signs that money has become too important to you.
- † Loudly confess that God is your only Source of provision and security and command the spirit of Mammon to leave you. Start behaving in the opposite spirit by opening up your hands and giving away that which you have always clung to so fiercely. [Is this not the way Zacchaeus and the first Christians immediately dealt with the idol of greed? (Luke 19:8 and Acts 4:32-37)].
- † If you do not give the Lord His due (at least a tenth of your income), you are robbing Him (Malachi 3:8-12 and Matthew 23:23). This must also be confessed and set right.
- † Confess the wasting of money on things that have no value (Proverbs 23:4). Confess wastage and mismanagement of money.
- † Pray that we as the agricultural community will be responsible stewards of all that God has given us. Pray that we will realise that all we have in fact belongs to God (1 Chronicles 29:12-16).

Day 40 Stand up!

I am convinced that all problems have one of three causes: *wounds (pain), sin and bondage*. Wounds lead to sin, unless they are healed. Sin leads to wounds, unless it is confessed and forgiven. This vicious circle of bigger wounds and more sin leads to people becoming completely entangled (bound) in sin and pain. It results in a life of darkness that creates the ideal climate for more sin and deeper wounds.

People who have been wounded in a battle do not get up. They remain prostrate; do nothing; hide behind others; feel sorry for themselves; blame friend and foe; focus on survival; remain involved with their wounds; want everything to be about them; become selfish and continually seek attention. A battle cannot be won with such soldiers



and a kingdom cannot be established. Such agriculturalists cannot feed Africa. **But, thank the Lord: healing and victory are available to all who have become ineffective in God's Kingdom because of wounds and sin and bondage!**

If you accept Jesus, believe the truth, confess sin and forgive and pardon those who have hurt you, Satan loses all his influence and control over you. This does not mean that he will stop accusing, tempting and trying to mislead you. But, by the power of God and with His armour (Ephesians 6:10-18), you can always come out of battle victoriously.

Read James 4:7. What must you do and what will the devil do?

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Step 1: Subject yourself to God. Confess that He is Lord and King and therefore must be obeyed. Listen to Him. Do as He says. Confess that He is right and you are wrong. Ask Him to help you. The moment you mention the Name of the Lord Jesus out loud (sign of subjection) and confess the truth about Him with your mouth (Romans 10:10), the devil will flee from you.

Step 2: Resist the devil. This means you must realise that he is lying to you and wants to keep you captive by his lies. You must loudly state that you refuse to believe His lies and choose to do God's will instead of following his advice. Use the sword of the Spirit. It is the Word of God (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 and Ephesians 6:17). The Word is the truth (John 17:17).

Result: The devil will flee from you! If you know and believe the truth, if you know who you are in Christ, the devil will fear you. He will flee from you. God says so!

Therefore, I beg you in the Name of the LORD:

1. **Repent!** *"... but now He (God) commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man (Jesus) He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead."* (Acts 17:30-31, NIV).
2. **Forgive everyone** who has wronged and hurt you because God has forgiven you. Give up the desire to take revenge. Trust in Jesus – He will heal all your wounds.



3. **Confess your sin**, because *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.* (Proverbs 28:13, NIV). Remember: Jesus is a strong Saviour, your sin has already been forgiven and Jesus is not wagging an accusing finger at you. He is next to you and living in you by His Spirit to help you conquer sin.
4. **Believe and speak the truth**, because the truth will set you free. Especially believe the truth about ...
- ✓ your restored relationship with the Father,
 - ✓ your new identity in Christ, and
 - ✓ your calling in this world.
5. ***Stand up, stand up for Jesus!***

Prayer:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus - Redeemer of the land
He's Lord of all creation - Victorious He stands
Let us all represent Him and be His hands and feet
Let us fulfil our calling as farmers on His land!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus - All peoples of the land
Let's live and farm for Jesus to glorify His Name
Let's conquer all the evil and bring His Name great fame
Let us fulfil our calling as farmers on His land!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus - It's time to make our stand:
To live and farm for Jesus, 'cross Africa our land
let's do work of high standard, rejoicing in God's way
Let us fulfil our calling as farmers on His land!



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www.amosafrica.net
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www.ffisa.co.za
wwwFOUNDATIONSforfarming.org
www.karoommc.co.za
www.kfmc.co.za
www.turn2god.co.za
www.ufollo.net

Reference list

Jesus has already done all that was required for your salvation, healing, victory and freedom. Now your freedom depends on what you choose to believe, confess, lay down and forgive. If you want to learn more about what you read about in this Prayer Focus, I recommend that you read one or more of the following books:

- **Bevryding**, Hendrik Venter, CUM, 2013
- **Christianity and the veneration of ancestors**, Afrika Mhlophe, SALT Publishers, 2013
- **Discipling Nations**, Darrow L. Miller, YWAM Publishing, 1998
- **DVD: Pause, because everybody is tempted**, Andy Stanley, North Point Ministries, 2006
- **The Father heart of God**, Floyd McClung, Harvest House (www.ywampublishing.com), 2008
- **He set the captives free**, Gerhard Nel, Greytown, unpublished notes, 2012
- **Living and Farming God's Way: Basics**, Hennie Viljoen, Amos Agrimin, 2008
- **Maximized Manhood**, Edwin Louis Cole, Whitaker House, 2001
- **The Bondage Breaker**, Neil T. Anderson, Monarch Books (Lion Hudson), 2007
- **The Kingdom Come in Agriculture**, Hennie Viljoen, Amos Agrimin, 2013
- **Ancient Paths**, Craig Hill, FFI (www.ffisa.co.za), 2008
- **Unbound**, Jack & Trisha Frost, Destiny Image Publishers Inc., 2012
- **Victory over the darkness**, Neil T. Anderson, Regal Books, 2013





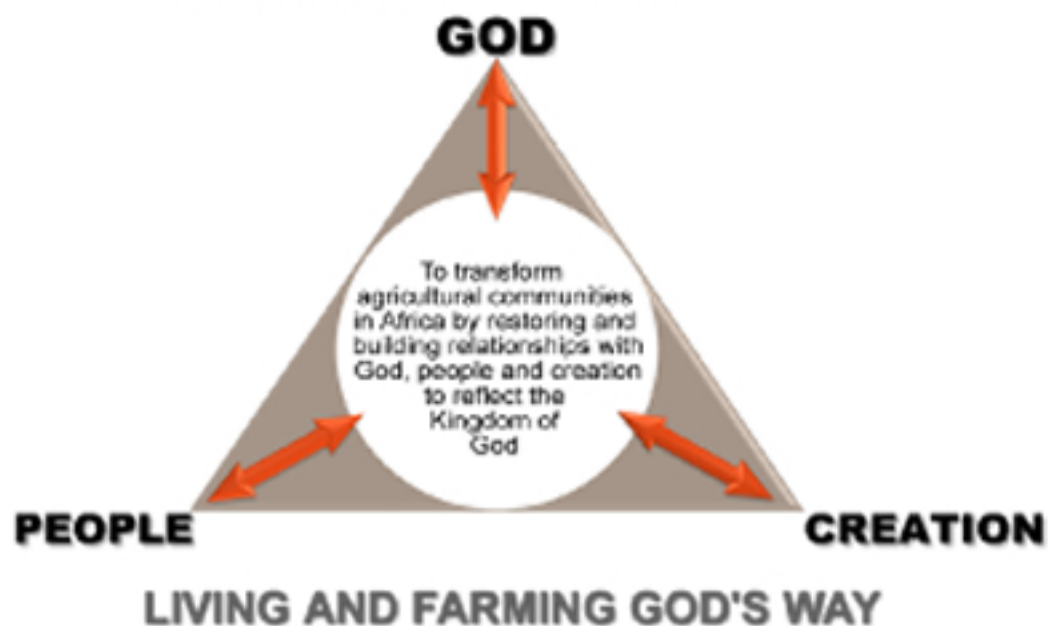
The name **AMOS** is derived from the Bible. Amos was a prophet and farmer of the Old Testament. As prophet, he warned against formalistic religiosity, and all kinds of exploitation and injustice of the day. Accordingly, God's children are encouraged not to be merely religious, but to live according to His will 24 hours of every day (24/7). The word **Agrimin** is an abbreviation for *Agricultural Ministries*.

AMOS' logo is rich in symbolism. The name is prominently printed. The windmill symbolizes agriculture. The windmill provides water and brings life and prosperity to the farm. We at **Amos** acknowledge Christ (red cross) as the source of Living Water (blue water issuing from the cross). He is the One without whom an abundant life is impossible. With this logo, we also acknowledge our dependence on the mighty working of the Holy Spirit, just like the windmill depends on the wind.

The core business of Amos Agrimin

We want to see the **Kingdom of God** manifested in the **agricultural community**.

Therefore Amos Agrimin's core business is:



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☎ +27 (0)86 580 0064

✉ secretary@amosafrica.net

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