

*Can Anyone Overpower
the Power of Demons?*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Though the war has been won in eternity, there is a battle being waged on the earth. The Lord Jesus Christ inspired Paul to write that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). *God’s strategic plan is to reveal the Finished Work victory over the satanic world.*

Satan has unique classifications of demons that are revealed in the Bible through the study of the original Hebrew and Greek texts and the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament). Though these things are never communicated to produce fear, we need to be informed about demonic warfare just as we do about cancer or other crippling diseases. This is why:

Satan’s ranks of demonic forces are coordinating with each other as they operate in different places. They engage in tactical warfare,

using militaristic strategies to approach the human race. Their target? The mind of man.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4a, “If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.” Notice that Satan has blinded the minds. His whole strategy is to get at the mind so he can affect our emotions. That is why Jesus said, “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). Satan blinds their minds, “lest the *light of the glorious gospel* of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4b).

This booklet has been written to show that as Christians, we can indeed overpower the power of demons. Through the Word and the Holy Spirit on the inside and God’s ministering angels working to protect us on the outside, we have the authority and provision to overcome Satan’s demonic host.

Chapter One

GOD'S GOVERNMENT OF LIGHT

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1:1-5).

We depend upon light for our physical and spiritual existence. In Genesis 1:3, God said, “Let there be light: and there was light.”

When we are saved, God translates us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son—a kingdom of light and love (Colossians 1:13). The first thing God does for us, positionally, is to take us out of the government of darkness and place us into the government of light.

Remember, God is light, and in Him there is

no darkness (1 John 1:5).

Jesus said in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” Today, our cities are being overcome with violence, crime, and drug addiction, and so little is being done about it. Though the number of murders annually in a major city may go down, still, so little is being done to deal with the root of the problem. There are many spiritual things and many practical things that need to be addressed. It’s devastating to think that *all* of these problems occur daily in our cities. 1 John 5:19 reveals the reason: “The whole [cosmic world system] lies in wickedness.” This is Satan’s government of darkness.

Called Out of Darkness

Every born-again, blood-bought Christian in the world is a part of God’s “chosen generation” (1 Peter 2:9). We are a “royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.” “Peculiar” means we are different from the world, but not ignorant. This verse concludes by saying, “That ye should show forth the praises of him *who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*” Thank the Lord for that!

Think of Psalm 43:3, “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me.” The original Hebrew says, “Send us life and truth that you may lead us by light.” “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the *simple* [those who cannot think]” (Psalm 119:130). The light of the Word of God is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our pathway (Psalm 119:105). God is saying, “My Word is pure light in the midst of satanic darkness.”

Children of Precise Light

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

God created the soul of man in five parts: mind, emotions, volition (which can be either positive or negative toward God), conscience (the norms and standards for thinking), and self-consciousness (being aware each moment of God, self, people, or circumstances). After the Fall, the old sin nature became part of the soul. Because of His nature, God desires that our souls would be filled with *precise light* through the entrance of His Word so that our thoughts and feelings will be precise. God wants us to have precise power, precise joy, precise love, pre-

cise forgiveness, precise kindness, precise patience, and precise attitudes of grace toward one another. He wants our values of family, education, economics, and government to be realistic and precise. God wants *precise* light to shine in the darkness that has accumulated in the old sin nature through the Fall of Adam.

The moment a person is saved, God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit all come to indwell him—*literally*, not theoretically. Then God gives precise thinking through categorical doctrine, which is received from the right pastor-teacher in the right local assembly.

As the Word of God enters the believer's soul, light is fighting the darkness; and the darkness *cannot* comprehend light. Jesus said, "Men loved darkness rather than light" (John 3:19). The reason? "Because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be re-proved" (John 3:19b-20). But, in God's light we receive more light (Psalm 36:9).

Redeemed Creatures of Light

When the Word of God enters into our souls in preciseness, we begin to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 2:16). Chil-

dren, teenagers, young adults, and older people can think the way God thinks through the grace of God. This is *divine viewpoint*. Divine viewpoint provides us with divine power; divine power gives us divine provision; and divine provision gives us divine guidance (Romans 8:14-16; Psalm 48:14).

The Word of God comes tenderly and sweetly with its forgiving spirit, with mercy and loving kindness, to give us a new self-image. Through our new self-image, we realize our eternal purpose and our everlasting destiny. We are not creatures of chance; we are God's redeemed creatures of light!

I feel sad for people who think the mountains just "happened" one day. I suppose the Great Lakes, the thousands of lakes in Minnesota, and all the beautiful trees just "happened." Do you think that *you* just "happened"? Do you think you didn't have to be conceived in your mother's womb? It would be absurd to think that a little wheel spun around until it turned into a rim, then a tire, until it finally became a car! No one believes that. Yet, some people refuse to believe that God is the first cause of creation. They would rather think that it all just "happened."

Why would anyone want to continue to live in ignorance of the truth? There is a story of an atheist who was mocking God before an audience of five thousand people. He declared, "There is no God!" when suddenly, five teenage girls in the balcony started singing a song about Jesus. The crowd began to rally as they began to sing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus!" and everybody joined in. Unable to break through the singing, the atheist finally had to leave. Think of it. Five teenage girls brought *light* into that man's lecture.

Chapter Two

CLASSIFICATIONS OF DEMONS

Though we are flesh and blood, we do not *wrestle* with flesh and blood. We wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

It is crucial that we learn the names and functions of the specific kinds of demons that are against us, as well as the names and functions of angelic beings that are on our side. Without this information, we will never be inspired to operate in the truth about spiritual warfare. It is impossible to learn these classifications of demons through casually hearing or reading about them once. Only through consistent reinforcement of these truths will we be able to live in them experientially.

First we will consider the classifications of demons as they are revealed in the Septuagint (the Old Testament as it was translated into

Greek), followed by the classifications in the Greek New Testament.

Prosphatoi, found in Deuteronomy 32:17, is a classification of demons that bring in new attractions to take our attention off God. Their entire duty is to bring in new things that we will be drawn to—whether good or bad—so we will not seek God and His righteousness first.

Hupselon is a word found in the Septuagint translation of 2 Chronicles 11:15, “And he ordained him priests for the *high* places, and for the devils....” It is the same word used in Matthew 4:8 when Satan took Jesus up on an “exceeding *high* mountain” to show Him all the kingdoms of the world. Intellectual demons of supernatural origin execute the tactical application of Satan’s strategy for warfare. Their entire job is to keep Christians from going to church or to get them into a church where they live in the permissive will of God because of sentimentality and convenience and a lack of categorical teaching.

Agalmata (Isaiah 19:3) are gentle demons called “charmners.” They have personalities that counterfeit Jesus Christ’s meekness; they are sweet, tender, and very gentle in dealing with people.

Another classification of demons known as *epaoiden* is found in Deuteronomy 18:11. These are demons who interfere with us through supernatural consultation to get us to make wrong decisions. They are in the consultation business. This is how they work: You may pray about something, but because you don't follow through with praise and worship, these demons intervene to consult you incorrectly about the decision you should make.

2 Kings 21:6 speaks of a classification of demons known as *gnostas*. These demons are located just above the earth in the lower part of the second heaven, but they are also able to come down to roam the earth. As part of Satan's tactical force, they are intellectually brilliant. Their job is to cause you to become familiar with God and His Word by making you passive, reactionary, or angry.

Gnostas demons bring in critical spirits to cause Christians to live in a negative emotional cycle and to speak with a critical tongue, finding fault in the name of objectivity.

Think of this: In the midst of this warfare and its very personal attacks on individuals, Jesus Christ is always ready to come in and build up our souls into an edification complex.

He desires every room of the soul to be filled with His light, life, and love. He wants us to be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19).

Kenologeo is a classification of demons that send messages to the intellect through vibrations from the air so we will think it's light from God. In Hosea 12:1, Ephraim was feeding on the wind. And who is the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)? Satan. Furthermore, in Romans 8:39, *hupsoma* (height) refers to the head demon of the air.

The mind receives billions of vibrations per second from the atmosphere. These vibrations come into the brain and are filtered through the pituitary gland which acts as an antenna. If these vibrations are allowed to be controlled by Satan, he can empower a person's speech. Though the words may sound like normal communication, they are actually spoken through demonic vibrations. That was the case with Peter in Matthew 16:23. Therefore, the mind must actively choose proper thoughts (Philippians 4:8).

Satan's strategy behind *kenologeo* is to feed the empty minds of believers with his thoughts. Sometimes he may bring in dirty or evil thoughts to destroy a family. Or, he may project thoughts

that go against God's righteousness, God's plan, God's values, God's virtues, and God's purpose for a child of God.

Teratoskopos (Deuteronomy 18:11) is the name of a head demon who has an army of demons under him for the purpose of performing "miracles." These demons cause physical disease as well as mental and emotional problems to be manifested in an individual. Then, through the soulish prayer of a cosmic evangelist, the demons actually remove the disease so that it appears as though there was a mass healing (Matthew 7:22). The purpose for this deception is to disorient and distract a person from the pure grace of God for healing. Jesus Christ revealed God's purpose as He healed *all* that were oppressed of the devil (Luke 13:11-16; Acts 10:38).

Ekledonizeto (2 Kings 21:6) refers to a group of overpowering spirits that can be around, yet they are particularly difficult to detect. Morning, noon, and night, their job is to overpower libido waves, bringing people into pornography, homosexuality, and lesbianism. Through the old sin nature and an individual's negative volition toward purity, these demons can cause people to drink and do drugs with an "I don't care" attitude. Then, either by hypnosis at an earlier time

(called “bewitching” in Galatians 3:1), which set up a pattern of behavior, or by direct and immediate contact, these demons take over the sex drives of men and women, producing sexual perversion. The purpose is to destroy the value system of single people and to destroy the purity and virtue of the values of married couples.

New Testament Classifications of Demons

There are also a number of Greek words in the New Testament which also reveal the names of demons.

Demons known as *diamoniou akathartou* have the job of breaking up a Christian’s personal relationship with God by bringing in habits, bondage, or uncleanness so that this person cannot properly relate to God (See Luke 4:33; 9:42 and Revelation 18:2).

Diabolos paradidomi is a classification of demons who set people up by “loving” them with counterfeit affections followed by betrayal (See John 13:2).

In Acts 10:38, Jesus went out, anointed of the Holy Spirit, to deliver all those Satan had oppressed. The classification of demons known as *katadunasteuo diabolos* bring oppression to the mind and depression to the soul. This is their

full-time job, and they go largely unrecognized in the lives of Christians.

Demons known as *rhadiourgia* (Acts 13:10) cause people to be undisciplined. The job of these demons is to affect the mind so that a person will be spiritually undisciplined in their thought processes and in their habits. These demons try to get church members to live at ease and in passivity—to be spiritually lazy and inconsistent, lacking discernment.

Another classification of demons has the unique job of causing people to speak evil of those they love and speak behind their backs. This is all done through *diabolos*, the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:9-10).

Oruomai, in 1 Peter 5:8, are demons who try to make people angry by penetrating their emotions. They are called the roaring lion demons.

Acts 13:8 speaks of a group of demons known as *anthistemi* whose job it is to get Christians to live in the realm of their natural human psyche so they will not operate with the mind of Christ.

Magos diogmos involves demons who have a systematic plan to wear people out through circumstances and then wait to finish them off (See Ephesians 4:14). They have a systematic, orga-

nized, perpetuating plan to destroy local assemblies.

Darkness is Past

Though we live in a physical, materialistic world, we also live in the midst of a *spirit* world. These spirits, as we have seen, are all around us. Therefore, it is imperative that we have knowledge of the Light—the knowledge of Christ—revealed to us through His Word and His Holy Spirit. As we are filled with the Word and the Spirit, we allow it to dwell in us richly, speaking to ourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:16).

It's so beautiful to walk in light as dear children, rebounding quickly when we fail. God wants us to be children of light, to love the light, to walk in light, and to grow in the light of His grace. As we do this, the light of truth exposes Satan's demonic forces, and we begin to have precise knowledge of our enemy. We gain insight into how he works—how he begins, carries on and attempts to complete his attacks on our lives.

But 1 John 2:8 assures us of our victory over darkness: “Again, a new commandment I write

unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because *the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.*” (The original text includes, “to dwell forever as a part of you.”)

Darkness is past! Colossians 1:13 tells us that the moment we were saved, we were delivered from the power of darkness and translated, positionally, into the light of the kingdom of His dear Son. Of course we are still human, and we all need to grow. We face natural temptations as well as the onslaughts of Satan’s classified demons. But God provides for us, not only with the Word and the Holy Spirit, but by sending ministering spirits to us.

Chapter Three

GOD'S MINISTERING ANGELS

There are scores of invisible powers around us, and often we act as if they don't exist. Think about it. You can't figure out how conception takes place in a woman, and how the precious child is formed in her womb. But you know it happens, and you accept it as fact. (You can't figure out which came first, the chicken or the egg; yet, you never question the fact that chickens lay eggs.) There are valid scientific explanations of oogenesis and mitosis in the cellular formation of the embryo in the miracle of reproduction. Still, so many functions regarding the creation itself—a unique human being with a distinct personality, abilities, and possibilities—remain a mystery to the most brilliant minds. There are so many invisible things that go on around us every day that no one can figure out!

God's elect angels (*aggeloi*, Psalm 103:20) represent an outward force in the believer's life

given for both offensive and defensive purposes. With this outward force, along with theantric action (the government of God indwelling a man's soul through the Word and the Spirit), we can break through any host of demons that come against us.

The names of the angels God sends have precise names and precise purposes in ministering to us. In fact, when you know their names, you can ask God to send a particular type of angel. God's angels protect us from accidents and diseases that have their source in demonic activity. These angels become a shield for us just as the Word of God is a shield.

"Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word" (Psalms 103:20).

In this verse, there are three classifications of angels. First we have *aggeloi dunatoi ischui*, a group of angels who excel in strength for those they are to help. When Satan sends his invisible, inaudible demons to attack us, God goes to work and sends these angels who are stronger than Satan's demons.

Next we have *aggeloi poiountes ton logon*. They have the unique job of encouraging their subjects by supernatural external maneuvers to

enable us to keep God's commandments.

Next are the *aggeloi akousai ton logon* whose job it is to hearken to the voice of God and bring holy concentration to those in a church service who are objectively open to worship Jesus Christ. They work as ministers unto the heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14), and they encamp around those who fear God (Psalm 34:7). They work in conjunction with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the Word of God to diffuse external distractions so the Word will be received without fragmentation.

Think of the angels who hearken unto God's Word. You may be easily distracted as you try to concentrate on the preaching of God's Word, so you pray for God to bless you. And what does God do? He sends a classification of angels to overpower the attack and to help you listen to the Word without distractions (Psalm 103:20c).

If a person is aware of and overwhelmed by a demonic attack, but knows how to operate in Christ, the Lord will send an angel to smite the enemies that intended to do harm. Remember who encamps around us (Psalm 34:7). With God, nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37)!

God also has angels that He sends before us. As Abraham's servant was preparing to go on a

journey to take a wife for Isaac, Abraham said, “[The Lord God] shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence” (Genesis 24:7b).

The Angel of Special Presence

Isaiah 63:9 speaks of “the angel of his presence” (*aggelos all’ autos kurios*). It means, “the angel of special presence,” or “the very special presence of an angel.” Do you know who this angel is? It is the *Lord Jesus Christ*. During a church service, the worship, the choir, and the special songs all have a part in ushering in God’s special presence, preparing hearts to receive the Word.

Jesus Christ is also known as *aggelos ho rhuomenos*, the Angel who redeems us from all evil (Genesis 48:16). He is the Supreme One, referred to in the Old Testament as “the angel of the Lord.”

We find Jesus Christ as an “Angel” in Exodus 23:20, “Behold, I send an *Angel* before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared” (Exodus 23:20).

Do you know that you would probably never make it to work from riding on the highway in the morning if you didn’t have God’s angels

around you? Also, according to Matthew 18:10, angels protect “little ones” (babies and young children). A mother may be so busy that she doesn’t notice that her toddler is about to fall while trying to climb out of his crib, but God has appointed an angel to keep that child from harm. Certainly we must take care of our children. But what a comfort to know that the angels also watch them and keep them from accidents so they will grow up. Think it over. Our God is such a provider.

Angels Who Minister Dying Grace

When God is ready to take a person home to be with Him, the angel of His presence comes into the room to bring comfort. I often tell the story of a Nazarene pastor from Maine who was dying of cancer. He was in the final stages when his pain was at its worst. At the time, I was preaching in a Baptist church and he would call me and say, “I want you to come in and pray for me, you old Baptist.”

So I went to visit him every day in the hospital. When he saw me coming he would say, “Here’s the Baptist. When are you going to change your doctrine and become a Nazarene?”

“Well, I don’t think you were ever as sin-

lessly perfect as you thought!" I said jokingly. He was a wonderful Christian and a great pastor too.

The night he died, I was right there with his loved ones by his bedside. He had been unconscious for several days. All of a sudden, in front of everyone in that hospital room, he sat up and said, "She was beautiful and she went up." Then he laid back down and died. Within a short time, a member of the family knocked on the door and informed the relatives that his daughter-in-law had just given birth to a baby girl, yet due to complications, the baby died. This Nazarene pastor had actually seen the angels taking his baby granddaughter to heaven just before he died. The angel of God's presence gave him dying grace.

When you are in financial straits, or your nerves are being attacked, you have Jesus Christ, and the angel of His presence ministers to you.

We need Christians who are filled with the faith of the precise truth that has been spoken to them. We need people who are able to speak truth against the air, against their adversity, and against their circumstances.

As we receive the *logos* (the written Word) in preciseness, the *logos* becomes a *rhema* (God

speaking personally to us through His Word). We will be able to release power into the air by speaking the *rhema* we received from God. Instead of being general, the *logos* now becomes precise!

Chapter Four

VICTORY OVER DEMONS

You may wonder, with all of the classifications of demons mentioned in this booklet, how you can have victory. There are many adult Christians who are little children in their thinking. They do not know how to think in child-like faith. Because they do not give definition to warfare, they are troubled by these classifications of demons. But Jesus Christ promises to deliver us and redeem us from our enemies. He promises to go before us, and fight for us (Genesis 48:16; Exodus 23:20; 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17).

The first thing to realize is that God has already given every believer a new heart and a new spirit. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). But verse 27 says that God will “*cause you to walk*” in His statutes, and keep His judgments

and do them. Isaiah 30:28a says, “And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck....” The “neck” speaks of the volition.

The key to victory in any realm is to have an overflowing life. “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” (Psalm 127:1). The Lord must build the house. Many young pastors in pioneer ministries—who are very sincere—try diligently to build a church. They are good men, but they labor in vain because they are trying to implement programs in a natural temperament.

To build a house with the Lord’s headship, leadership, and guidance, the spiritual process must be placed ahead of programs. “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever” (Psalms 23:5-6). The psalmist said that his “cup”—his capacity for living—was running over! That is how a marriage is saved and a church is built. It’s not by trying, legislating righteousness, or making demands on people, but it’s by having

a cup that is running over. And people drink from your cup, though they may not even be conscious of it.

I know of a marriage that was attacked by three different classifications of demons. This couple came through beautifully and they are in church consistently, praising God and fellowshiping with the Body. Satan tried to get them to stay home and have a fight. He tried to get one party to stay home so the other one would stay home too. But now they're in the services, loving the Word of God and worshipping Jesus Christ. This confuses the devil. He doesn't know what the next move will be, so he has to withdraw from this couple until they change their minds about confessing Christ as they overpower the enemy's attack.

A River Flowing Out

Jesus said to the woman at the well in John 4:14, "The water that I shall give [you] shall be [in you] a well of water springing up into everlasting life." The Christian has a well springing up inside of him. Not only that, but he has a river flowing out of him. "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me,

and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy [Spirit] was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)” (John 7:37-39).

Think of it. A spring springing up inside, and a river flowing out. The Word dwells richly in us and we begin to speak to ourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts. This is how a church is built. And that is what it means to have the Lord build the house. It’s more than information; it’s an inspired life. It’s not just programs but a spiritual process. It’s a ministry that acts in grace, loves through mercy, forgives through the Cross, and ministers life in the power of the Spirit.

Victory through an Organized Mind

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). The word for “sound” in the original language means “an organized mind.” God wants to give us an organized mind, organized emotions, and an organized volition. We can go against Satan’s organized kingdom through information that becomes inspiration.

Victory through Prayer

Jesus said in Matthew 21:13, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." In our church, we have a vision to be in 220 countries by the year 2000. Our vision begins right here in Baltimore, our Jerusalem. Many are called to work with us here. But all of us here also have a tremendous ministry of prayer for the detailed needs of those 220 countries. We must stand in the gap for countries like Iran and Turkey. We must discern and pray precisely for specific classifications of demons that are over these countries as well as Africa, China, India, England, America, and so many other areas. We must become a prayer army of intercessors to come against these demons.*

Because God's house is a house of prayer, every child of God must know how to behave in the local assembly (See 1 Timothy 3:15). The sanctuary is not a place to bring food and drinks; it is not just a place for socialization. We must plan to be on time for the worship and praise service. It is vital to get into a mind-set of worship, a mind-set of prayer, and a mind-set for receiving truth. It is so easy to allow ourselves to enter into *rhadiourgia*, having a slothful

mind-set toward the assembly meeting and a lazy mind-set toward worship. This is the network of demons who try to keep us from reverencing God and His people and the local assembly meetings.

Jesus Christ didn't say, "My house is a house for whatever you want." He said, "My house is a house of prayer." This means we come in to God's house having prayed up-to-date. We sit down as members in particular (1 Corinthians 12:27). The Holy Spirit goes to work laying certain burdens on our hearts, and we begin to fellowship with the Lord.

A Royal Priesthood

"But ye are a chosen generation, a *royal priesthood*, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, *an holy priesthood*, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath

made us kings and *priests* unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:5-6).

As a royal priesthood before God, we have the privilege of exercising our priesthood on behalf of the people in our city, for the leaders of our land, and for the leaders of other nations.

Ephesians 3:12 tells us that we “have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.” The Word of God also says, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Every man and woman of God is a priest. We go before God as priests to pray for people. Then we go to people as ambassadors on behalf of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). This fulfills our eternal purpose on the earth. And as we go, we pray without ceasing so we do not faint (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

We must realize that our words can be more than just aimless talking and foolish jesting. Our words can be words of faith and power. We can have an eternal purpose in our speech and in

our initiations.

As we realize the power of our priesthood through access to God and we pray for one another and for our cities, then crime will go down—all because we took the time to knock on heaven's door with serious intercession and absolute supplication. The Holy Spirit will do what would be impossible to accomplish outside of God's life and apart from His grace.

Prayer from an Overflowing Cup

When our cup runs over, God prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies. He anoints our head with the oil of the Holy Spirit. The spring springs up, the river flows out and we are so occupied with God that we are no longer defeated in our lower nature with the same old problems of preoccupation with self.

With our focus on God, we become a prayer army. We enter into a prayer scope, a prayer way, prayer thoughts, prayer with supplication and intercession. Then the Spirit takes over our spirit and begins to move within us in a supernatural way because we are fellowshiping with Jesus Christ and His life.

**For more about effective prayer strategy, read Do I Really Know How to Pray?, Grace Publications, 1997.*

CONCLUSION

Every believer must be *inspired* to operate in truth. Let me illustrate. There are few people in the world who have any idea what the Twenty-Third Psalm is all about. But when they hear someone quote it, they move their lips as if to say to those around them, “I *know* that psalm.”

Knowing scriptures does not bring deliverance. Knowing scriptures is simply acquiring information of how you can have deliverance. What brings deliverance is the *inspiration* of the Scriptures, and that knowledge becomes the power to defeat the forces of darkness.

This week, speak the word of faith so that it can become power. Speak it in your bedroom, in your car, wherever you are. Speak into the air—the domain of Satan’s kingdom (Ephesians 2:2). Enjoy being an individual in God’s kingdom who is causing confusion in the devil’s camp.

We must not ascend into heaven to try and bring Christ down; and we must not descend

into the deep to bring Him up again from the dead (Romans 10:6-7). But the Word is nigh in our mouth and in our heart. It's the Word of faith that we speak (Romans 10:8). Confess that Jesus Christ is risen and we are risen; confess that Jesus Christ is ascended and we are ascended; confess that Jesus Christ is seated above and we are seated with Him!

God has given us armor to protect us from the attacks of demons (Ephesians 6:10-18), but He has only given us one offensive weapon—the sword of the Spirit, which is the *rhema* Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). God takes the *logos* (the embodiment of His deity) and speaks specific *rhemas* to us through His Holy Spirit. This is the sword of the Spirit, the “standard” that the Spirit raises up against the enemy that comes in like a flood to destroy us (Isaiah 59:19*b*). Thank God for His government of light!