

*Severing Attachments
to Evil*

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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

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

The Word of God is very quick and very powerful. It demands our undivided attention. We never know when we will experience supernatural phenomena, as we have seen God work so often. At those times, where hearts are open, there is not only a supernatural manifestation of the Word but also a supernatural operation of the Holy Spirit.

Through this kind of operation, we can become attached to the Lord, totally delivered and detached from satanic deceptions, seductions, and attachments. I am so thankful for those who take a stand with the Word of God in their lives. I don't mean that we never fail. Certainly, we all

fall and need to rebound—that's not the issue. The issue is to *draw near*. Even though I have isolated failures, I continue to draw near. And as long as I am drawing near, I will have victory if I really want it. This booklet will reveal how each and every Christian can be free from the bondage of satanic attachments—free, indeed, through the Word.

Chapter One

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Often, a woman who loves God with all her heart finds herself in a relationship with someone who is in a process of *retrogression*. That person has gone beyond backsliding and is now deceived and in an arrogant complex. She thinks she will win him, but that isn't going to happen.

My suggestion for dealing with that kind of relationship is: don't get involved in the first place! But if you are married and in this kind of relationship, stay in it. And, while you honor your partner as much as you can, remember that the other side of it is tough love.

In any case, people who are in the process of retrogression are infected with evil. Because of the insidious nature of infections, it is vital that we understand the problem of evil to be able to guard ourselves.

I will list several points as premises for this discussion on the problem of evil:

First, the Lord Jesus Christ never paid for Satan's sins.

Next, the Lord never paid for the sins of the demonic kingdom.

Jesus Christ *has* paid for the sins of the whole world.

Only as many as truly receive Him, however, become the sons of God.

Jesus Christ paid for all of our *personal sins* (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6), becoming sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

In order to be right with God, we need a thorough understanding of *rebound*: We must name our sins and let God turn us as we walk in the light of repentance, having our faculties and volition cooperate in submission to Him. Then we isolate the sin and go on—cleansed and purged.

On the other hand, *evil* has never been paid for. It is important to understand that when Christians enter into evil, God has not paid for what they are doing. Evil is the continuation of iniquity.

Let me reiterate that: When a person continues in iniquity, he enters into evil. *Iniquity* is when a person—either through deception or ig-

norance—consistently says “I will” against God, perhaps without even knowing God’s name. It is saying “I will” against the Cross; against our cocrucifixion, coburial, coresurrection, and coascension in Christ; and against categorical doctrine.

In iniquity, people develop *complexes* in departments of related sin. When a person continues in a sin such as pride, he develops an *arrogant complex*. Arrogance is a department of pride. In other words, pride is an attitude of the heart toward a particular issue. When that attitude spreads into the various rooms of the soul, the complexes become related through arrogance. He has established an *arrogant department*.

For example, some of the people who come to our church have never submitted to the Cross. They will make comments like, “I don’t know who my pastor-teacher is.” They had better get one quickly. It doesn’t have to be me—I’m already pastoring thousands. (So believe me, I am not soliciting!) It might be a pastor in another place, another country. If it *is* me, I’ll do the best I can. But if you say you don’t have a pastor-teacher and you *continue* as though you don’t need one, you are in an arrogant complex. It’s either that, or you are ignorant of categories

of Bible doctrine that make you accountable to have a pastor-teacher.

The next point to understand is that your soul can be possessed with *evil*, which is the government of Satan, without being demon possessed. (A Christian can never be demon possessed.)

Ultimately, evil in a Christian will be judged with the sin unto physical death, which means the Christian is taken to heaven early because he will not repent. It doesn't mean he dies at a young age. He may have been destined to live to the age of eighty but, instead, dies at fifty-eight. This is the sin unto physical death (1 John 5:16; 1 Corinthians 11:22-31; Psalm 118:7; Acts 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 5:1-6).

From Personal Sin to Evil

To summarize, we understand that evil is Satan's government. Personal sins are what I commit by choice to bring myself pleasure. But when I continue in personal sin and refuse to be turned by God, I put myself under Satan's government of evil, which is not covered by Calvary. If I continue to reject the authority of God's Word, complexes and departments will be established in the rooms of my soul, which could

lead to physical death if I refuse to get right.

Let's say that you and I are Christians. If I were living in adultery and you knew it, you could come to me alone about my sin. At that point, if I refuse to obey sound doctrine and repent, then I have gone from personal sin into evil.

If you were abusing drugs and your pastor or another believer said, "Please, for your own good, give them up. I love you—give them up!" but you refuse, then you pass from personal sin into evil and Satan's government begins to control you.

If a husband will not love his wife as Christ loved the Church, even after his pastor has loved him and equipped him with the truth, that husband has gone from personal sin into evil. If a wife will not honor her husband according to what she has been taught in the Scriptures, and she refuses over a long period of time, she goes from personal sin into evil.

How to Get Out of Evil

I want you to see how to get out of evil. You do not get out of evil by confessing your sins. "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and *keep* you from evil" (2 Thessalonians 3:3). In Matthew 6:13, the Lord taught his disciples how

to pray. He said to pray, “deliver us from evil.” That means, “deliver us from Satan’s government, keep us away from it.” But once you are *in* evil, prayer won’t get you out of evil.

You and I can have differences but love each other and never say a word about it. That isn’t evil. We have a right to have differences. You can come to me, state your difference, and still love me. If I don’t agree with you or can’t satisfy you with my viewpoint, then you can go away and love me anyway. It’s not personal sin—we acknowledge that we are both growing. If, however, you go away from a disagreement and cause a conspiracy against me, you have entered into evil. It is normal to disagree; it’s okay to have a difference. But if you sow discord, you enter into evil (Proverbs 6:13-19). Your differing with me is not evil, but you must keep the differences to yourself and come to me alone. And I must do the same with you. It’s reciprocal.

Putting Off the Former Conversation

How do we get rid of evil? Ephesians 4:20-24 tells us how: “But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation

the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

I rehearse this passage all the time because I could get into evil more quickly than you could, and this is how. As a pastor, I study more. Because I’ve learned more, I know more, and I’m responsible for more. Therefore, the kinds of demons that would attack me are of the higher echelon. Satan would put angel-of-light demons on my case. I might think I’m doing a great job for God yet slip right into a stage of evil. That’s why it is vital for you to uphold your pastor in prayer.

Being delivered from evil is a decision we make every morning. How many of you put your clothes on every morning? How many of you take them off every night? That’s the analogy in Ephesians 4: “*Put off* concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye *put on* the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

The Christian life can be reduced to this sim-

ple process: First, you take off the old man. Then, you put on the new man, every morning, just like you put on your clothes before you leave your house to go out in public. You put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14). You put on the new man every morning so that, spiritually, you can enter into the angelic warfare in a public appearance. It's very simple.

Renewing Your Mind

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (Ephesians 4:23). Within the memory center there is a divine staging process. The Word of God enters into Channel A—the *nous*, or the mind—and goes through a staging process. Then the Holy Spirit operates and transfers the Word to Channel B—the human spirit or God-consciousness. Next, it enters into Channel C—the soul—where God-consciousness takes over our self-consciousness, using it to reveal God's character.

Also in Ephesians 4:23, “be renewed” is an iterative aorist in the Greek, which implies that I am to enter into a continual daily process of receiving the Word of God. *Daily*.

The question is: How do we get out of evil?

The answer is: I do not get out of it by rebound, prayer, or confession, but by first acknowledging that although I am a Christian, I am in Satan's government of evil through deception.

People who are deceived and are living under Satan's government of evil have so much to say. Some of these people act so strange and don't come to church half the time. They say they are sick—and they are. They are mentally ill because they are into evil, yet they will scream at you and swear they are not. Believe me, my forty-four years of experience tells me *they are into evil*.

You would not believe some of things I have had to deal with—some men, in isolated cases, who are involved with prostitutes. It is shocking that they would risk their health, their marriages, and their children by going downtown to hire prostitutes. Imagine it—Christian men who are happily married entering into self-indulgence with the whore world. They could end up with herpes, or AIDS. If they wanted to get right, it would be a wonderful and precious thing. We would lead them to Jesus and they would be forgiven. (By the way, your sin—whatever it is—*will* find you out according to Numbers 32:23.)

How do you get out of evil? It happens through a repeated process of letting Jesus Christ's mind work on your soul through doctrine and the Holy Spirit. You can't get out of evil in a day. You can get out of the *practice* of it in a day, but it will take you from several days to three weeks to come totally out of evil. You have to be accountable to the pulpit, to the body of Christ, and to someone (like the pastor) who will keep the matter private until you are out of it. There must be accountability, *personal* accountability.

Chapter Two

DEFINING THE PROCESS OF ATTACHMENT

I want you to see Matthew 12:30 carefully: “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” This verse is written to Christians. What does it mean to be “with” Him? This is talking about the relationship between the head (Christ) and the body (His Church), in Ephesians 1:22-23. He is the head of the body. Give Jesus Christ pre-eminence (Colossians 1:18).

“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” A person in any local assembly who isn’t gathering is into evil.

“Well, Pastor, so-and-so did this,” people come and tell me. They come with all the details of what somebody did or didn’t do. These statements are evil. Don’t waste my time with evil unless you want to hear what I have to say to

you. Maybe I know more about the situation than you do, and maybe I don't. But if you are into evil, I certainly do know more.

“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy [Spirit] shall not be forgiven unto men.

“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man...” (Matthew 12:31-32a).

Do you know that if you speak a word against a Christian or a leader, you are speaking a word against the Son of man? Let's prove it scripturally. Jesus said, “He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me” (Luke 10:16). In other words, “If you receive whomever I send, you receive Me. If you reject whomsoever I send, you reject Me.” That's not only referring to the twelve apostles. This principle was established way back in 1 Samuel 8:7. In Luke 10:17-19, Jesus sent out seventy who were not even apostles, but they were *sent*. If people rejected them, they were rejecting Jesus. People don't want to hear that when you reject a leader—if he's God's man—you're rejecting Jesus. When Jesus said, “If you reject the one I sent, you reject Me,” He was talking about the

seventy, not the Apostles. A word against the Son is a word against His mind and a word against His representatives.

Christians are knit together through doctrine and the Holy Spirit's love in Christ (Colossians 2:2). We are members of His body, His flesh, and His bones (Ephesians 5:30). We have been joined to the Lord as one spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17). We have been sent to resist and stand against the devil (James 4:7). We have been sent to reveal the nature of God, and we are not to know *any-one* after the flesh.

Deception

What is Satan doing today? He is deceiving born-again Christians who will enter into his kingdom *while* they serve God.

Deception is, first, the act of misleading, or of cheating, with deceit as a habit of the mind. Through *planao* (the Greek word for *error* in 2 Peter 3:17) the devil leads people away into groups where they feel comfortable, where they can become like the religious crowd in Jesus' day who said, "Let's kill Jesus and get Him out of the way. We would be doing God a favor." (See John 16:1-2.)

Second, acts of deception are practiced with

a goal to injure someone.

Third, the strategy of deception is to achieve an unlawful spiritual advantage.

Fourth, deception produces false impressions through opinions, establishing emotional reactions that cause the emotions to control the volition without truth.

A deceived person doesn't know there's anything wrong with him. You can go to him and say, "May I see you alone? I love you, but I see a consistent habit in your life. I'll be your friend. I won't tell a soul, but you're deceived in this area."

The deceived person will react in his emotions and say, "I'm not, Pastor. I'm not!"

At this point, you're done—don't even try to go further. That person has exalted himself above the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). He will neither submit in obedience nor bring into captivity what Christ says through the pastor who is over him in spiritual authority (as a representative *only* because of a delegated position—not to manipulate or control, but to impart, to love, to invest, to edify).

Be able to recognize those who handle the Word of God deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:2). Satan is skilled in cleverness (Genesis 3:1). His

deception includes temptation that leads to sin and destruction (1 Corinthians 10:9-10). Also, I want you to see that deception originates through *projections*—the representation of something in a perspective, or a prospective plan. It is a system representing a realm, a sphere of influence, or a kingdom.

Satan uses projections to manipulate your volition, making you honor feelings that were caused by his impressions instead of truth. If you are not hearing the Word of God daily, Satan uses your ignorance of categorical doctrine. Next, Satan causes you to forget what you have heard. (All of us forget far more than we ever remember.) Then, Satan deceives by using the influence of powerful people or the influence of someone you want to appreciate you, along with your desire to be “accepted.” You forget that you are accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6).

Another method of deception is *demonic telepathy*—demons transferring their thoughts to the soul of a Christian who thinks they are his *own* thoughts (Isaiah 29:4; Matthew 16:22-23). Telepathy is caused by a specific demon known as *eggastrimuthous* in the Greek, which translates “familiar spirit” in Isaiah 8:19. It is a spirit that a person becomes acquainted with by close con-

tact, the human soul giving access through the volition. While this person thinks he is expressing his own convictions, demons control his vocal cords (Matthew 16:22-23). He never gets healed because he has refused to be accountable to anyone but his own emotions.

All of these definitions came from hours of study, exegeting the Word and pondering these thoughts from God in the middle of the night. I didn't get them from some other book.

Seduction

After deception, we have *seduction*, which means to lead apart, to draw aside, to entice away from the path by temptation. Satan will tempt you repeatedly in your area of weakness in order to lead you into iniquity. He inveigles you, meaning he blinds you, persuading you with deceptive methods to do something evil. He can cause people to surrender to an error by overwhelming them so they will cooperate with false needs.

Satan will seduce even the elect (Mark 13:22). Manasseh seduced people to do more evil (2 Kings 21:9). The way of the wicked seduces them (Proverbs 12:26). In the last days, seducing spirits will try to get us to depart from

the faith (1 Timothy 4:1). Seduction is taking a drink from the cup of demons (1 Corinthians 10:21) establishing a capacity to drink some more, while a person swears to God that he is still right on with Jesus.

Attachment

Seduction leads to attachment. In the study of law, to attach means “to take by legal authority.” Satan does this by misquoting the Scriptures and using the Law (which we are not legally subject to because of the Atonement), judicially attaching us to himself in a system of legalism. An attachment is something that is connected to something else by force, affections, interest, or influence.

People can be bound up with the spirit of attachments until they become one with the attachment. Someone who goes out and commits a sexual act with a harlot becomes one with that harlot (1 Corinthians 6:16). In his flesh, controlled by his libido waves, this person must always think of pornography—thinking evil because he has become one with the harlot. Now, supernaturally attached to the prostitute or to the spirit of prostitution, his soul is destroyed. He will not lose his salvation if, in fact,

he is truly saved, but his soul is destroyed (Proverbs 6:32).

How can he get out of it? The only way to get out from under any form of evil is by following the divine blueprint of receiving the Word daily. When there is a constant intake of the Word of God, taking off the old man and putting on the new man, then the transfer is finally made. Before he knows it, this person is no longer interested in the attachment. He now has God's thoughts toward that act of iniquity, and he doesn't do it anymore—he doesn't even have a desire toward it.

Joined Hand in Hand

A demonic attachment is a joining in affinity to someone with whom God is angry. In Ezra 9:14, “Join in affinity” uses the same Hebrew word used for *contract*, such as a contract for marriage. The wicked are described as being attached hand in hand (Proverbs 16:5). That’s why they are so powerful. They are closer than air because of a supernatural work (Job 41:16).

Isaiah 5:8 describes people who “join house to house.” Someone who smokes pot wants to go to a house where someone else smokes pot. There is a pot attachment, a drug attachment.

Someone who drinks feels more comfortable around someone else who drinks. There is a house-to-house attachment, a hand-to-hand attachment.

Someone who likes to go to bars, pick up women, and have illicit sex—or at least try to—is living in a satanic attachment. He even uses grace as a license to sin—something God does not give him (Titus 1:16; Jude 4).

Enemies are attached, joined together (Isaiah 9:11). If you are a pastor, and you've never had a conspiracy in your church, you would be shocked at what can happen in three months. Every enemy you've ever had will join forces. If they had never met each other before, they will exchange telephone numbers and start making calls: "Aha, we've got him now!" they will say.

But if we attach ourselves to the Lord, we can have total deliverance from satanic deceptions, seductions, and attachments (Isaiah 56:6). I am so thankful for those who take a stand for the Lord with their lives. I don't mean that we never fall or use rebound—we will; but that's not the issue. The issue is *drawing near*. Even if we do have isolated failures, we continue to draw near. As long as we are drawing near, we will have victory—if we really want it.

Chapter Three

FROM DENIAL TO DETACHMENT

After attachment, the next stage Satan tries to get the Christian into is dependency. Dependency means that one thing is connected with and subordinate to something else, “subject to the power of; not able to exist or be sustained without assistance.”

“You’ve got to have help,” whispers Satan. (He never identifies himself by announcing, “I’m Satan.”)

“I know I need help,” the person replies.

“Do you know all the provisions that I have to help you?” the devil asks.

“No.” The Christian thinks he is talking to God.

“I suggest you relax, have a few drinks, just a few. Go to a doctor. He has something that he can do to help, and he’s very understanding.”

“I will.”

This person doesn’t pray. He’s not filled with

the Spirit. He doesn't walk in the Light. But believe me he is walking in another kind of light.

"Do you feel better after that person has counseled you?" Satan asks.

"I do," says the Christian. "He really understood me"

Sure he understood you. He never said a word to rebuke you. He really *understood* you.

Satan continues, "You've got to keep going to him. You may even have to keep going to him for three or four years. Oh, by the way, didn't he help you more than the pulpit helps you?"

"Yes, I've got to admit it," the person says.

"Wasn't he more understanding than your closest friend in that church?"

"Oh, I know he was. God bless him, yes!"

"I am answering your prayer."

The person might as well say, "Thank you, *Satan*."

This person is in a state of hanging from a support system that is not based on the promises, the love, or the character of God's nature.

Satanic Support Systems

Often when one person is dissatisfied with a program or department of a large, soul-winning

ministry such as ours, they will “mysteriously” find someone else who agrees with their position. When three or four of these people find each other, the first thing they will do is get together and have a “discussion.” It’s all demonic. They should never get together, but they’re not humble. They exalt themselves against categories. They are deceived and they are into evil.

It’s not wrong to have disagreements. I’ve said that before. It *is* wrong, however, to have a support system against something that is God’s provision for us. For every individual they can get to speak out for their side, I can bring up hundreds who would applaud and thank God for the blessings they have received in that area. When there are legitimate concerns, there is a table of organization ordained for the purpose of hearing the matter. We purpose to be humble, gracious, willing to grow and open to change, but the spirit must be right.

“Thou hast [depended] on the king of Syria, and not [depended] on the LORD thy God” (2 Chronicles 16:7). “Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him” (2 Kings 18:21). In

other words, these people are trusting in Pharaoh; they lean on their own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). There are those who have a divided heart and have not been restored by the Word of God. They may profess God is with them but Micah 3:11-12 reveals the truth. Yet, for those who lean on the Lord, evil cannot come upon them (1 John 5:18b).

Representation

Once a person becomes dependent upon Satan, he becomes a representative of Satan's kingdom *inside* the Church. This person is inside the Church, he's been saved for years, but he represents Satan in the local assembly.

Representation is when someone impersonates another or represents another's character by action, by appearance, or as an ambassador. Impersonation means to perform in the character of another, to represent another's character in a planned strategy. Representation also means to show or exhibit the image or likeness of another, his kingdom, or his sphere of influence.

"A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health" (Proverbs 13:17). The life of Jesus Christ was made manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). In other words,

it was *represented* in mortal flesh. We were created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27). We have represented the earthly, and we will also represent the heavenly (1 Corinthians 15:49).

Peter was representing Satan in Matthew 16:22 when he said to Jesus, "You're *not* going to that cross, I'm telling you now!"

"You're okay, honey, you don't have to get right. Those people at church just don't understand you." When people say things like this, they are representing Satan.

"You don't need a local church or a pastor." Such a statement not only represents the kingdom of darkness, but it violates thirty-four Bible doctrines. If you want to challenge me on this, why don't you meet me alone instead of discussing it with others.

After months and months of study, you have to decide who your pastor-teacher is and where your church is. It could be anywhere, but you need to make a commitment to God in that local assembly. Don't try to get away without submitting to bona fide spiritual authority that is delegated for your sake and for your accountability.

Denial: The Final Stage

The last thing a person does when he is rep-

resenting Satan is to live in *denial*, declaring one thing outwardly while trying to cover up the truth and living in a lie. Denial means to reject or disown the truth. A person living in denial will not receive reproof but will disavow or deny a fact regarding himself.

On the other hand, godly *self*-denial is not denying but *detaching*. Self-love is *not* selfishness; self-worth is not self-worship; self-affirmation is not self-deceit; and self-awareness is not self-absorption.

The person living in *ungodly* denial says, “I’m not selfish. I’m not worshipping myself. I’m not deceived. I’m not involved in self-absorption.” They say these things because they deny the truth of God’s Word. For the Christian, it’s the last stage before the sin unto physical death. Retrogression to this point is a process, of course. God is patient. He will do so much—He warns people with the Word, repeatedly. Over and over, God lets the truth be known. He uses people to send forth His Word, in season and out of season. He will be so patient! Do you understand that? God’s long-suffering is salvation for us (2 Peter 3:15). But if we refuse to be turned, then He will move with something else.

Recently I had to tell someone, “You are de-

ceived.” As their pastor, I believe God wanted me to say it, and I said it to the person privately. The problem had nothing to do with me or my church. It had to do with long-term attitudes. Unfortunately, his response was to exalt himself above my exhortation. Even in the midst of a revival, where the Holy Spirit is so close to us, there was no discernment on his part.

Jesus said, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself” (Mark 8:34; Matthew 16:25-26; John 12:24-26). Let him deny himself instead of living in denial. Agree quickly with your adversary (Matthew 5:25). When you are living against the truth, the Holy Spirit is your adversary.

Let’s ask the Father to help us. We must thank Him for those who are not in these processes of retrogression into evil. But even for those who are, we can ask that through conviction they would understand how to be attached to Jesus Christ, dependent upon Him and His Word. Then they will break free from attachments and truly reveal Christ.

CONCLUSION

The Lord Jesus Christ in all of His uniqueness and beauty wants us to understand in divine perspective that no Christian is ever to “get in touch with himself” in order to be free from satanic attachments. You don't have to search yourself, as many psychiatrists teach. The Lord Jesus, the God of all mercy, the God of all grace, does the searching. If the Holy Spirit reveals that something is wrong in my life, I agree with Him and let Him turn me.

Following Christ becomes a matter of putting on the new man every day. Put off your old conversation and rid yourself of your old way of living. Take it off just as you would take off your dirty clothes. Then, simply put on the new man and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.