

# BREAKING FREE



FROM THE DOMINATION OF PRINCIPALITIES,  
POWERS,  
AND DEMONS!

**By Paul Christensen M.A. M.Div**

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## Breaking Free From Principalities, Powers, and Demons!

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Paul Christensen  
18A Kindergarten Drive  
Conifer Grove  
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New Zealand

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Feedback, testimonies and enquiries to:  
email: [Paul90@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:Paul90@slingshot.co.nz)

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### Gospel Faith Messenger Equipping Stations

Tuesday, first and third weeks of the month: 7:00 p.m. The GFM Hamilton Equipping Station continues at the "Hamilton West Anglican Church," 158 Rifle Range Road, Dinsdale, Hamilton, NZ. Enquiries to: Doug & Jackie Hodges at The GFM Hamilton Office: Telephone: 07-846 0684; E-Mail: [gfm.biblecourses@gospel.org.nz](mailto:gfm.biblecourses@gospel.org.nz)

Thursday, first and third weeks of the month: 7:00 p.m. The GFM Kapiti Coast Equipping Station continues at 7 Gandalf Crescent, Paraparaumu, NZ. Enquiries to: Rodney & Jean Francis, Telephone: 04-904 0727; E-Mail: [gfm@gospel.org.nz](mailto:gfm@gospel.org.nz)

Tuesday, first and third weeks of the month: 7:30 p.m. The GFM Napier Equipping Station continues at "Pirimai Baptist Church" Café, corner Allen Berry & Hercock Streets, Pirimai, Napier, NZ. Enquiries to: David & Kathy Tait, Telephone: 06-835 0567; Mobiles: David: 021 024 00289; Kathy: 021 0242 6580; E-Mail: [djtait@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:djtait@maxnet.co.nz)

Sunday: 3:30 p.m. (every last Sunday of the month) The GFM Hawera Equipping Station functions. The afternoon is finished off with a shared meal. Bring a plate. Enquiries to: Rev. John Wilkie, Mobile: 027 555 6111; E-Mail: [jlwilks@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jlwilks@inspire.net.nz) or Suzanne Hokopaura, Telephone: 06-278 0166; E-Mail: [theprez.hawera@inspire.net.nz](mailto:theprez.hawera@inspire.net.nz)

Monday: 7:00 p.m. (every last Monday of the month): The GFM Rotorua Equipping Station is being held at Malfroy Road School, 196 Malfroy Road, Rotorua, NZ. Enquiries to: Doug & Jackie Hodges, Telephone: 07-846 0684; E-Mail: [gfm.biblecourses@gospel.org.nz](mailto:gfm.biblecourses@gospel.org.nz) or Pastor Paul & Karen Groot, Telephone: 07-348 1476; E-Mail: [newbeginningscentre@gmail.com](mailto:newbeginningscentre@gmail.com)

For other events beyond April 2013, please check our [Website](#). E-Mails and addresses shown in these pages are for the purpose of enquiring about the scheduled meetings only. As a mark of Christian integrity, unless enquiring about specific advertised meetings, please refrain from sending unsolicited letters and E-Mails to the persons named. If you no longer wish to receive our mails, please send an E-Mail with "Unsubscribe" in subject line. Thank you.

With Love and Blessings

From Rodney and Jean Francis, and "The GFM" Team

**“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).**

## INTRODUCTION

We are in a spiritual warfare. Many church members do not realise that. They go to church every Sunday, take part in the services, sing the hymns, listen to the sermons, have morning tea afterward, and then go home. Everything is done calmly, peacefully, enjoyably, with great satisfaction that they have done their duty for the week. They never really experience any real conflict between good and evil, except that they know that they really should be more holy, probably more active in the church, less of a “couch potato”, watch less television, be more loving to their wife/husband, do more around the house, maybe less critical of the minister and elders; mostly wanting to be an all-round good person.

This is the attitude of the majority of church members in churches that do not go any further than teaching and preaching theoretical Bible knowledge and Christian ethical principles, and do not venture into the realm of spiritual warfare teaching. They are churches that either do not believe that the gifts of the Spirit are for today, or if they do, they are not willing to enter into the practice of them in their services because they are “out of our comfort zone”, and are afraid of going “over the edge” into excessive passion and fanaticism.

But the experience of these church members does not diminish the reality that **we are in a spiritual battle every day**, whether we are at home, work, or at church. It is just that we do not perceive what is going on in the spiritual realm unless it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. We often accept circumstances as being natural occurrences, and the conduct and actions of people around us as the normal way that people behave. Even when we are the subject of negative conduct from others, we tend to accept this as “a fact of life” without enquiring further about it to see what might be the **motivation** behind such conduct.

This is because ordinary people mainly live in the area of their five senses, and have little perception of anything outside of them, and so they judge circumstances and behaviour from a sense point of view. We might say about a circumstance that it was either a fortunate or unfortunate event, and it was “my turn” that this has happened

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to me. If we have a motor accident, we say, "It had to happen sometime or other, because of the flow of probabilities". Or if a person does something criminal or nasty to us, we say, "That's what that person is like". "He/she was brought up that way". "It is compulsive; part of their personality/temperament". "She bullies others because that is the way she is." We don't always seek **to look deeper** to find out whether there is a deeper reason, maybe **a spiritual reason** why this has happened, or why that person behaves that way.

We can try to deal with an issue by sorting out the human agency involved. For example, it might be a pastor who does not want the gifts of the Spirit used in his church by anyone other than himself, and disciplines anyone who attempts to prophesy or minister healing to any other member. This has actually happened in a church meeting where the pastor publicly rebuked a member for going over to someone who was in distress and praying for her. He told her in front of the whole congregation that "I am the pastor here, and no-one ministers to people except me!" Now, complaints could be made to the elders about that pastor's action, or the member could up and leave the church. But that is dealing just with the human element without considering that there could be **an invisible spiritual entity** controlling that pastor's attitude. **It is not to say that the pastor is demonized** in the way we understand it, but he might be influenced nevertheless to think that because he is the pastor, he is the only person qualified to minister to people, or he might be thinking that the member who went and prayed for the person in distress was not an "official" counsellor or member of the pastoral team.

This is like the war against drugs. We often see on television programmes like "Border Patrol" drug couriers being apprehended, and we think that the authorities are doing a lot to win against the flow of drugs into the country. Sometimes we might hear of the police raiding a drug manufacturing laboratory. But **we never hear** of any arrest of the financiers or drug bosses who are exercising overall control of the organisation. It is often the "soldiers" who are caught, but the "colonels" and "generals" are never seen, because they are **carefully hidden in the background** and the links to them are camouflaged. Even when the manufacturing laboratories are closed down in an area, and the drug "mules" are caught and imprisoned, all the "general" has to do is to open up a new laboratory, resume the manufacture, and recruit a new team of drug couriers.

It is like wanting to get rid of weeds in your garden. You can cut the tops off, but the hidden roots are still in the ground. You have to take the whole plant out, roots and all, to successfully eradicate it. Oxalis is very difficult to remove, because even if you dig down to uproot it, it spreads a whole lot of small tubers in the soil, and before long there is another invasion of the weed.

**It is the same in spiritual warfare.** We can deal with the human element, replacing the pastor, getting rid of rogue members, a group of members going and starting a new church, an individual member leaving and finding another church, and all the other things people do to settle issues; but **until we recognise that there are spiritual forces exercising control** over what happens in churches, we are never able to get down to the “roots”. Without dealing with the spiritual forces affecting situations in the church, in spite of what we do on the natural level, the issues will remain, and re-emerge the same as before, or in a different form, with the same effects.

## **WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL WAR**

**U**nconverted people have no conception that they are involved in a spiritual war for their soul. This is because they are **blinded by the god of this world** (the devil) so that they cannot understand the Gospel, and therefore kept in the dark about the spiritual battles that are going on in and around them. This is why we as Christian believers need **to pray with all our hearts** that the Holy Spirit will enlighten them and give them **a spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of God (Ephesians 1:17), so they can understand the Gospel message, and receive saving grace to accept Christ as their Saviour. Then they will, with appropriate teaching, **understand the nature of the spiritual war** in which they are involved. So, instead of being helpless “civilians” in the “war zone”, they can become **effective, powerful soldiers** in the fight against principalities and powers.

The other point I want to make is that although the Christian believer has enlisted as a soldier in God’s army, he or she needs to **be equipped with the appropriate weapons for the warfare**. Spiritual battles cannot be fought with natural weapons. We see that throughout history, well-meaning Christians have tried to fight the forces of evil using natural weapons, but all this has resulted in years of warfare, much bloodshed, thousands of lives being lost, and enduring hatred from some cultures for the Christian Church. We cannot use natural weapons to fight spiritual battles.

**“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”** (2 Corinthians 10:4-5, NIV).

### Understanding The Nature Of The Warfare

**W**e now need to understand the nature of the warfare between the Christian believer and the principalities and powers that are in control of the world at this present time.<sup>1</sup> Many events that we consider in the “normal” range are seen **from a totally different perspective** when viewed in the Spirit. Many times we need the revelation of The Holy Spirit to get a clear view of the spiritual motivation behind a certain event or action that takes place in our church or home, or something that happens to us or is done to us in a direct manner.

To lay the foundation, we need to know that satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). He has been given total control of the world, and therefore every unconverted person is under the authority of his kingdom and therefore under his total control. This is why it takes **the power of The Holy Spirit** to rescue sinners from the kingdom of darkness to translate them into the kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13).

Satan is the general who organises principalities and powers to administer all the areas of the world, and these principalities control different countries and cities according to the culture and the makeup of the population.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Spiritual Warfare*, Rodney W Francis, (1992, 2000), Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry, for a good, clear definition of what Principalities and Powers are.



## THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

While the makeup of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is an **open structure**, with the Holy Spirit indwelling believers, and clearly indicating the source of His ministry, which is Jesus Christ, who in turn has stated that He has come to do the will of His Father in heaven, and that every believer has direct access to the Father through the Name and righteousness of Christ, the devil's organisation consists in an **invisible** chain of command, where at each level, entities are under the authority of those at the higher levels. His organisation is essentially a **pyramid structure** with the devil at the top as overall commander. Does this remind you of certain church governmental structures? And does it indicate to you that this is why there sometimes are serious problems resulting for a church having a pyramid structure?

Each entity at each level of the structure **has a specific role** in the purpose of evil to pour malice and hatred on the Person of God, in the face of Jesus Christ, and to quench and grieve the Holy Spirit. This is the devil's prime purpose, and his every command to his subordinates is to carry this purpose to effect. Ever since he was cast out of heaven, this has been his purpose. The damage that he does to the human race, both converted and unconverted is secondary to his prime motivation, and that is to cause as much grief to God as he can. **His hatred and malice is directed solely at God**, and he uses every principality, demon, and human agency to fire his venom at the face of God. Once we understand that, then we know that we have **the full cooperation** of the Godhead to fight a successful spiritual war against that very person who is solely responsible for all the attacks that we experience.

In that sense, we can say that we are fighting against the devil, because as supreme commander of the forces of darkness, there is no negotiation with him in the orders he gives to his subordinates. Even the most powerful and influential principalities under his command have to obey his orders without question, otherwise punishment is swift and brutal. The devil's authority with his forces is based on fear because he can punish those who fail to do his bidding with the worst of venom and misery.

The next level of command involves the principalities that have authority over whole nations. These are very powerful entities. We see this in the description of the angel's fight with the principality called "the king of Persia".

**"On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face**

like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come” (Daniel 10:4-14).

Here, the angel fought against this powerful principality and was held in a stalemate for 21 days until a higher ranked angel, Michael, came to assist him. Then they were able to drive the principality back so that the angel could get through with his message for Daniel. The passage does not say that the principality was defeated or that his rule over the nation was taken away from him. All that was achieved was that the principality **had to stand aside and let the angel through**. This shows how powerful some of these principalities are, when even high ranking angels have a real battle on their hands just to get a messenger through to answer a believer’s prayer,

But this also shows us **the awesome power of the authority that we have** when we have the power of attorney to use the Name of Jesus against these principalities, because the Scripture says that if we resist him, even the devil himself, the supreme and most powerful commander, **has to flee from us**. (James 4:7). This is momentous. **We have authority in Christ** to accomplish feats that not even the highest ranked angels can do. If we are confronted with a powerful principality like the king of Persia and we use our authority in Christ, he has to immediately retreat from us, something that two powerful angels took 21 days to do! Do we **really** perceive the awesome power that is available to **us** in the **Name of Jesus**?

Now, the principality that has responsibility for a nation has lesser ranked principalities under his authority to control business organisations, schools, churches,

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shopping centres, armies, government departments, etc. Each organisation has a principality administering it and following the commands of the higher principality over the nation, to advance the devil's purposes for that nation.

There is a principality, I believe, controlling the education system in our country. It commands lesser powers each control a school, college, or university, and they are under orders to ensure that the devil's purposes for our education system is carried out, and there is severe punishment for failure. This is why Christian teachers get such a hard time in our schools with the most disobedient students and lack of support from senior staff. All this is orchestrated by the power in charge of the school to ensure that Christian teachers are prevented from sharing their faith freely without opposition and censure. A teacher whose time is all taken up with trying to control a disobedient class does not have the time or energy to freely share his or her faith with those who might benefit from it. The principality governing our education system hates Bible in schools and is doing everything possible to get rid of it. He is presently enlisting the help of the principality governing the different pagan religions that have come into our nation in recent years to try and dislodge the place that Christian Bible education has in our schools at present.

Christians working in government departments are often bullied and persecuted, because there is a principality governing the civil service, with lesser powers over each separate department. The present cutting of the staffing in government restructuring at present is part of the work to undermine the peace of ordinary workers and to bring an atmosphere of uncertainty, fear, and disillusionment. A Christian trying to testify of Christ in that environment is likely to be countered with, "We don't discuss religion or politics here!"

There is a principality controlling our roads. That entity is responsible for the accidents that happen to people as they drive from one place to another. If a Christian minister uses his motor vehicle as an important part of his ministry, the principality would try to set up the conditions for an accident to damage his car so he cannot use it, or even worse cause death or injury to the minister himself or to members of his family. Actually, **nothing happens by accident when the devil is involved**. Everything that seems like an accident, causing suffering or death is **carefully planned and orchestrated** by the principality governing our roads.

Reinhard Bonnke<sup>2</sup> tells the story of when he and his team were travelling from one place to another in Africa when the driver of a tanker coming the other way fell asleep

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<sup>2</sup> Reinhard Bonnke; *Evangelism by Fire: Keys for effectively reaching others with the gospel*; Publisher: Charisma House, Published: August 9, 2011.

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at the wheel and collided head on with one of their campaign trucks. Two valuable mission workers died in the inferno while the others stood by helpless, weeping and praying. Are we to believe that this was just an unfortunate accident, or a principality giving warning to the mission leaders that there will be dire consequences if they continue to win souls for Christ in that region?

There are principalities controlling our hospitals, making it difficult for Christians to go and freely minister the Gospel or healing to patients. Some have asked those in the healing ministry about why can't they go into the hospitals and heal all the sick people there. Well, they could, if there was not a principality governing the hospital with a **large team of demons** causing all sorts of hindrances.

There is a powerful principality with a governing structure controlling the internet. This is why there is a high level of porn on the internet, reaching into every country and home in the world that has computer access. While it can be a powerful means of getting the Gospel message out into the community and into people's homes, it can also be a powerful medium for all sorts of evil practices as well.

The next level, which is **the rank and file level**, are the multitudes of demons that influence people **more directly**. These are the demons that oppress, cause obsessions, addictions, put evil thoughts into people's minds, and all sorts of other things that cause people to choose evil rather than good.

When we read that the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe (2 Corinthians 4:4), we now know that **the devil does not come down and do it personally**. There is a principality that has governance over unsaved people, and each of these principalities answers to the principality that governs the particular country that the unsaved live. Each principality works on the unsaved in his country in a different way to those in other countries. This is why there are different cultures, with diverse values and religions. It is easier to spread the Gospel in some countries, but almost impossible in others. This is because of the lack of powerful and authoritative prayer and ministry by believers in a country, resulting in the governing principality having more of a vice-grip on that country, keeping the population in darkness and ignorance of the truth.

There can be differences in various regions of the same country. In Nigeria, for instance, in the South, there are many good churches and it is easy to have a healing/evangelistic crusade there; but in the North, a well-known evangelist tried to have a crusade and had to retreat in a hurry because a mob was coming to kill them all. He and his ministry team got out by the skin of their teeth, but 300 Christian believers in that northern city were killed by the mob. I believe that the principality governing the south of that country is less powerful than the one over the north. This is because **of the power of prayer by believers**.

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The same is evident in the differences between North and South Korea. The North is controlled by a principality that keeps the Gospel suppressed under communism, while the South has had major revivals, causing the retreating of the principality and a diminishing of his power.

Japan is also another difficult country to get the Gospel up and running. But there have been efforts to win souls for Christ, with some success. I believe that the tsunami that happened with such a serious loss of life, could be the punishment given to that nation for allowing Christian evangelism to happen there. The principality **has set limits** to the type of religion being practiced, and allows the pagan religions to be freely practiced, but threatens a beating to the nation if limits to Christian activities are not observed. The tsunami is an example of this.

I also believe that there have been successes in Christian ministry in those areas of South East Asia where the tsunami hit some years ago, and as a result, the principality could have organised a **“beating”** for the population of that country to **punish them** for stepping over the boundaries. This is what principalities do to countries that fail to keep within the limits they set.

The destruction of the Twin Towers in New York may be another example of the malice and venom of the devil against the United States of America because of its Christian ministries that have such a dynamic effect all over the world. The natural man believes that it was an extremist Muslim attack to cause suffering to the people of the United States in retaliation to what that country is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan, but when we look deeper into the purposes of the principalities involved, we could believe that it was to **hinder and distract the development of the Gospel** and to inspire doubts in the minds of many people about the existence and the love of God. I wonder how many people were discouraged from having Christian faith as a result of that tragedy? I believe that was the purpose of the devil behind that event. We have to remember that the devil is committed to throwing venom in the face of God and to prevent as many people as he can understanding the Gospel and accepting Christ as Saviour. When we see some of these major tragedies in that light, we can **better understand** why they are happening.

I wonder if the schools where they have had tragic shootings where numbers of innocent students have been killed or wounded, have had good Christian religious education as part of their curriculum? I would not be surprised if they did have, and these shootings are part of the **“beatings”** on those schools by the principalities governing them. If those schools did not have a Christian religious programme, other schools in the district might have, and the principality is warning them that the same could happen to them if they did not cancel their religious education programmes. These are **questions worth researching** by those who are interested in finding out.

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There are not only the demons that cause very public and news-worthy events, but there is the multitude made up of billions of demons that influence every unsaved person, and affect every Christian believer in the world. Demons of unbelief, fear, insecurity, anger, violence, lust, power and control, bullying, false religious teaching, lying demons of all types. The list would cover every known evil practice and act that would influence a person to shy away from the Gospel, acceptance of Christ, and holy living.

Unconverted people are under the complete control of these demons. They don't know how controlled they are, because they are limited by their five senses and do not have any perception of the activity of the demons in and around them. They don't know the vast number of thoughts that go through their minds actually are inspired by demons of different types. A person does not have to exhibit bizarre behaviour to be controlled by a demon. There are people walking our streets, who look totally normal, and who are controlled or influenced in some way by demons. They do not realise that they are a functioning part of a grand hierarchy of demonic activity and command structures going right up the pyramid to the devil himself.

## THE WORK OF PRINCIPALITIES IN THE CHURCH

**B**ecause the visible organisation of the Church is part of the world, **much of that organisation is under the control of the principalities and powers**, directed by the devil. We don't want to admit it, but many churches have been **set boundaries** by the resident principality and are threatened with reprisals if they cross those boundaries. Some churches have more freedom than others because of the awareness and prayers of the saints who have driven these principalities back and diminished their effectiveness. When there is a revival event in a church or a region, the principality is suffering a defeat and has retreated. But as we have seen, this entity has not given up and still does what it can to derail the revival; and in most cases it eventually succeeds. As we have seen, most revivals in history have been temporary and not permanent. Often after some years, the revival churches have gradually returned to what they were before the revival.

The Welsh Revival continued in full force while Evan Roberts ministered, but when he stopped leading the revival and retired from ministry, the revival faded very quickly. Often a church in revival will become organised and institutionalised, and as a result, the revival fades away. What we have to do is to examine what causes a revival to run out of steam, and what part do principalities and powers have in that regression.

The Pentecostal Revival started very powerfully at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, but as the movement became divided and institutionalised, the supernatural faded away, and most Pentecostal churches are no different from any non-Pentecostal churches in their daily ministration and activities. What we have to ask is what involvement in the diminishing of the supernatural do principalities play a part. This is what this article is going to examine.

No-one wants to admit that their local church, regardless of whether it is a Pentecostal, Charismatic, or Traditional denomination, has levels of control imposed on it by demonic principalities.<sup>3</sup> If you are going to be upset by my examination of

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<sup>3</sup> ROBERTS LIARDON is an anointed spiritual leader and humanitarian who has authored 54 books which have sold over 7,000,000 copies and been translated into more than 50 languages. He has built churches, bible colleges, and founded a humanitarian organization, called Global Compassion. I want to acknowledge his ministry, and whose message I recently viewed on Youtube where he proposed this. Immediately, I linked what he said to events that happened in my own experience of church life and that of others, and it seemed that I got a whole new insight into the extent that churches are controlled by these principalities. I then felt strongly that I needed to write what is coming to me before I lose it. Roberts Liardon is an anointed spiritual leader and humanitarian who has authored 54 books which have sold over 7,000,000 copies and been translated into more than 50 languages. He has built churches, bible colleges, and founded a humanitarian organization, called Global Compassion.

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events and actions, then stop reading and find something more encouraging to spend your time. If you are concerned about the state of your church and you want to know what might lie behind some of the puzzling events that are happening and want to know how to fight and win against these principalities, **then read on!**

Now some might accuse me of **glorifying the devil** when I seek **to expose his purposes and strategies** in the world and the church. They are saying this out of ignorance of the nature and ways of the devil. **He works in darkness** and keeps himself well out of the “limelight” because he knows that if people knew that he is behind that negative event, or that he is introducing that “new doctrine”, the believers would either take their authority and bind the demons, or would totally reject the doctrine. **So he and his “team” keep well out of sight.** The last thing that the devil wants is to be exposed and “glorified”. He does not want believers to advertise the fact that the temptation, extra-marital affair, church division, “power and control leadership” is being orchestrated by him, because **any exposing of his devices will certainly lead to the frustration of his plans.**

What happens in churches controlled by principalities is that **there are limits of doctrine and practice imposed on them.** If anyone in the church attempts to go beyond those limits, they are quickly “disciplined” and silenced by the leadership. This is because the leadership is warned by the principality that if they allow this person to continue, there will be reprisals. The principality will come and punish the church and leadership. If the whole leadership decides to break out of the limits imposed, the principality will clearly threaten them with strong reprisals. They will threaten that it will send its demons to come to that church and give it a serious beating, and even get it closed down. There are many examples of this happening in churches, and I will give specific examples of this later in the article.

But first, I will give you some general examples of the limits imposed by principalities:

“We don’t believe that tongues and prophecy are for today’s church, so you are not to practice them in the services.”

“Only the appointed pastors can preach or teach in this church.”

“You will obey your home group leader and consult with that person before consulting with any other person in the church, otherwise you will be in disobedience.”

“You will not read any books or listen to any CDs not authorised by the leadership of the church.”

“You will marry the person we choose for you.”

“Television and movies are evil, therefore you will lose your anointing if you view them.”



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- “You will not question the Pastor’s judgment or the doctrines he preaches.”
- “We will have a compulsory thirty minute worship time at the start of every service.”
- “I will allow loud music and will shout through the microphone during the altar call if I wish. It doesn’t matter if the ministry team cannot hear the prayer requests.”
- “That prophesy is not of God because I don’t agree with it.”
- “We do not allow prophetic training here. We have to allow the Holy Spirit just to do it.”
- “We follow the leading of the Spirit regardless of what the written Scripture says.”
- “The written Scriptures are the dead letter and direct revelation is more important.”
- “Anyone baptised in any other name other than the Name of Jesus will have to be re-baptised.”
- “We are the local church. If you go to another church, you are not saved.”
- “We are the most important church in town. Those people in that other church are not your brothers and sisters in Christ, they are just your cousins.”
- “You are too young to get insights and revelations from the Lord.”
- “Our interpretation of doctrine is the only interpretation.”
- “We are the only church that has true Apostolic succession. All other churches are divided from the true Church.”
- “You don’t come up to my standard of morality therefore you are a second-class believer.”
- “You need to confess your private sins to me in order to be forgiven.”
- “Your church will have to have the authority of the Bishop to be able to do that.”
- “You need to follow the rules of our church if you want to be accepted here.”

I could go on and on with all sorts of statements like that, but these will suffice. As you can see, **all these put limits on the freedom of individual believers and churches.** All these are instructions that come from the principalities that are having influence and control on churches. Many reading this would be surprised because they would not have realised where these limitations originated. You see, the devil is a general who keeps right in the background. **He is well and truly camouflaged and hidden from view.** He gets others to do his dirty work for him. His lieutenants are the principalities that he has set over each city, region and church. Under those principalities are teams of demons who are specialists in their fields. All these have different functions according to the type and level of control that the principality wants to exert.

The principality and the subordinate demons use words to threaten and control people and organisations. **Worldly people and organisations don’t experience much of those threats** because they are already their willing subjects. But when a person

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becomes a Christian in a workplace, the demon will speak to the manager to give that Christian a hard time and make his job harder to do. The reason for this is to neutralise the Christian and prevent him from giving a clear testimony of Christ in that workplace. So the Christian could be warned with dismissal if he or she shares their faith in the workplace. Many Christians are silenced in this way, and it is actually the work of demons, sent there by the overruling principality, under the instructions of the devil.

When a church, Christian organisation, that is seen to be “toxic” and a believer starts to bring reforms **that threatens the influence of the kingdom of darkness** in that church, the devil is activated, and instructs the principality **to do all it can to undermine and neutralise**. The relationship between the devil, principality and demons **are bonded by fear** of punishment and reprisal. If the principality or demon does not do what it is told, it is punished and beaten until it complies. They pass on this threat to Christian churches, organisations and believers if they continue resisting. But **the Christian believer has absolute authority over the principalities and powers of darkness**. It is more common for a believer or church to encounter a principality or demon than the devil himself, because **it is rare for a general to be fighting in the front lines**. The devil is no exception. So this is another deception: “The devil is giving me a hard time today.” This is not true. It would most probably be a fairly minor demon involved. Later on we will examine the effectiveness of Christian believers to defeat and limit the activities of these principalities and their demons over yourself and your church.

### Specific Events

I have done my best to describe the events **without identifying any particular people** or churches. But in some cases, it might be unavoidable if any of these events have happened to you or your church. I would say that most of them can be experienced in many churches and by many people. It is the hope that describing these events may lessen the sense of hurt and disappointment in people who have been badly treated by churches and people, and may give them confidence to continue fellowshiping with other believers with love, peace and joy, knowing that we are all fragile human beings and susceptible to snares, mistakes and deception, if

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the devil can get past our defences.<sup>4</sup> Falling into error is never fatal **if we know how to get out of it** and continue in our faith. There are resources in the Lord to accomplish that, and we will do with them shortly.

Also, I want to make it quite clear that **I am not running down or criticising any specific churches or denominations**. If a church is dysfunctional, led by hypocrites with agendas other than to glorify Christ, the devil doesn't worry about them at all; in fact he will rejoice over them, support them, and basically leave them alone to "do their thing." He loves churches like that because he knows that they are no threat to him at all.

Think how many nations and provinces there were in the Roman Empire. Most of these regions just got on with what they were supposed to do under Roman rule, so they were left in peace. But then, Judea decides to give Rome a bit of trouble, and so they become identified as a rogue province. When the Jews rebelled in A.D. 70, Rome sent a humungous<sup>5</sup> army down there and wiped them out.

The same happened with Carthage. It grew in power and influence to a point where it was a threat to Rome, so what did Rome do? You guess it...sent an army down and razed that city to the ground.

It is the same with the devil and the Church. Those churches that are content to have their formalised services with three hymns and a sermon, and do not "rock the spiritual boat", are left alone. Why bother to fix something that "ain't broke"? But when a church starts praying for revival, encourages the supernatural gifts of the Spirit, and exhorts the people to live holy lives before God, then watch out! Here comes the evil army to beat you up!

**The devil will only attack churches that are led by holy men of God**, who love to glorify Jesus, and who welcome the gifts of the Spirit, and have members who are on fire for Christ, with powerful prayer lives and are effective, committed workers for Christ. Far from criticising churches like that, **we need to celebrate them**, support them, pray for them, do all we can to assist them in their spiritual battle with the powers of darkness.

Now what follows are the kind of measures that the principalities will take to try and bring a church and its members down to despair so that the church will lose its spiritual "mojo", and end up being a monument to what might have been.

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<sup>4</sup> I don't want anyone to assume although the events are true and have actually happened to churches and people that they are autobiographical or directly connected with any church, organisation, or person, past or present that I have had direct involvement with. This is why the events are described in the third person. If anyone chooses to personally identify with any of these events, that is their own individual choice.

<sup>5</sup> Meaning: so large that it almost defies description!

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We will look at some historical examples first.

**John Wesley.** He saw himself always as a Church of England minister. When God touched him with a new revelation of the importance of holiness and commitment to Christ and the saving of souls, the established church would not allow him to continue preaching, so he had to find other venues to continue his ministry and accomplish the calling and vision that God had given him. What happened here was that there was a principality over the established church, and it set limits on that church. When Wesley exceeded those limits, the principality instructed the church leaders to eject him or suffer the consequences.

**David Brainerd,** missionary to the North American Indians. He went out and through his prayers and ministry, there was a revival which involved the Holy Spirit falling in great power, and many were converted to Christ. Then Brainerd contracted tuberculosis and died at a very young age. What happened was that the principality of the region saw that his limits were being exceeded and decided to eliminate the cause by putting a fatal disease on Brainerd, and effectively cutting off the future ministry potential to those people.

**Charles Grandison Finney.** He was wonderfully baptised in the Holy Spirit, and embarked on a remarkable ministry where many souls were won to Christ. His ministry exceeded the limits that the principalities placed over the Presbyterian Church of the time, and many of the influential leaders severely opposed him to the point at last when he left that church and joined the Congregational Church. This meant that the revivals that were happening among the Presbyterians and most areas of the church returned to the “status quo” within the set limits.

**John Hus,** an early reformer. This godly minister started preaching Justification By Faith some time before the “official” Reformation started with Martin Luther. Hus was a bold preacher who won many to Christ, but the established Church objected and he was burned at the stake. Again, he exceeded the limits imposed on the established Church by the principality set over it, and to avoid the threat of recriminations by the higher Church authorities in Rome, the local church had John Hus executed.

There are many other examples where godly men and women have received a fresh infilling of the Spirit and have broken away from the formalism of the established church, and then found themselves under intense opposition. We are starting to understand that the influences that are at the root of the persecution and rejection of these godly folk are more than just the human element. We are increasingly perceiving that there are invisible spiritual forces driving them.

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Now, I want to examine some more “close to home” events that have actually happened in churches I know about, and these stories could be repeated time and time again in churches all around the Western world. What I intend to do is to relate the experience and then give my analysis afterward. Please note that **my comments are my own opinion** and are not meant to be the definitive, objective view.<sup>6</sup>

1. **A couple are newly married. They were committed Christians in their churches** before marriage, and they transferred to the church where they were married. They started an effective ministry in the gifts of the Spirit, and had a home group where those gifts were encouraged and developed. This was having great effect among the young adults in that church. Then a guest speaker came to the church teaching that the church needed official home groups operating and that every member needed to be part of those home-groups. The home-group the couple ran was not one of the official ones so there was pressure put on them to close their group. The couple resisted and got permission from one of the senior elders to continue. A couple of weeks later, the members of the group reported that they had received phone calls from another elder in the church telling them that they had to leave the couple’s home-group and join one of the official ones. The group’s membership decreased to the point where the group had to close.

The principality overseeing this church had specified limits on how this church should function. It allowed responsible, experienced members to set up their own home-groups, as long as they did not become too much of a threat to the devil’s operations. When the gifts of the Spirit started to flow, and visitors to the group were getting powerfully baptised with the Spirit, and the effectiveness of the group was spreading more widely to the young adults in the church, the principality became nervous, because the potential of some of the participants in the group meant that a lot of future damage could be done to the kingdom of darkness. So the principality used the visiting speaker’s ideas about home groups to make it appeared to certain leaders in the church that this could be the best thing “since sliced bread” for the church, and so a decision was made to set up the “official” home groups. The decision of a senior pastor to allow the present house group to continue was unacceptable to the principality, so it quickly used another elder to undermine it. Because the house group leader was not aware of the spiritual forces that were driving

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<sup>6</sup> In other words, you don’t necessarily have to agree with my analysis of the event, because you might see it from a different angle.

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this, he was unable to do the type of spiritual warfare praying that might have caused his group to survive. Now, I am not saying that the elder concerned was a religious hypocrite. More likely **he was an on-fire leader wanting the best for the church** according to the vision that he had. It is this type of leader that the devil seeks to trip up and deceive. That elder would have had no idea that what he did was directed by a principality.

2. **A large city church was one that encouraged the prophetic gifts to operate freely in the Sunday services.** A young man with obvious spiritual issues kept on giving long, loud prophecies in the Sunday morning meetings, and no-one seemed to be able to stop him. What was the spirit behind that? Here was someone interrupting the flow of the Spirit in a meeting with inappropriate, fleshly prophecies that were forgotten by the end of the next hymn, and yet none of the church leaders seemed to be able to silence him.

I believe that it was a demon who was inspiring the prophecies, and the principality controlling that church prevented the leadership from silencing him by keeping from them the insight to see that it was a demon whose purpose was to disrupt the service and get people's eyes off Christ, and to put visitors off who could have been good potential members in that church. Because there were others with genuine prophetic gifts who could inspire and strengthen the saints, the young man was functioning to undermine the genuine prophetic, and to keep that spiritual life of that fellowship within the set limits.

3. **A couple had an effective ministry in the church.** They had all the potential in ministry and were committed, passionate believers. Then the husband became physically violent to the wife, resulting in the breakup of the marriage.

Again, there were limits set for that church. One of the limits was that anyone expressing a real passion for outreach to lost souls and had a determination to put what they were learning into practice out in the community, needed to be neutralised. **Young couples committed to Christ and have a passion for lost souls is an obvious target**, and in order to maintain the limits, the principality totally destroyed their marriage and any ministry potential for either of them.

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4. **An elder of a successful city church** was caught doing a homosexual act in a city public toilet. He was arrested by the police. This man preached regularly in that church for a number of years.

Here was a church that was determined to make a difference in the lives of people living in that city. It was a rapidly growing church with an evangelistic coffee bar outreach, and a steady stream of new conversions, resulting in a growing membership of stable believers. This was breaching the limit, so the principality came and targeted one of the top leaders of the church, a man who was a passionate, committed, experienced elder with a recognised country-wide ministry. He had a weak point, and the demon sent to disgrace him was a specialist in activating that weak area. He waited until, maybe a period of inaction, discouragement, loneliness, or whatever, and then struck; with disastrous consequences. The principality punished the whole church; came and gave it a through beating; disgraced it before the community, because it was challenging the rule of satan over that city, and therefore breaching the set limits.

5. **A missionary couple came back from the mission field and decided to plant a church in the city.** It proved to be a successful church with a good spirit in it, The church was growing, and was free in the use of the gifts of the Spirit. Suddenly it was revealed that the pastor was having an adulterous affair, and his marriage broke up. As a result, the church closed and the members scattered.

What happened here was that this church was developing a very good and faith-building spirit. I visited that church and participated in the prayer time before the Sunday service. **I was impressed with the power of the Holy Spirit that was evident in that prayer time.** I was convinced that it was a good, family church for people to join. Churches like that are a threat to the devil. The principality had to find a way to close it down or make it so formalised that it would lose that effective “edge” in the Spirit. So it looked for a **weak point**, and it found one in the pastor. Again, a specialist demon was sent to arrange an extra-marital affair that ended up destroying that church so that it no longer exists.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Anyone who were members, or had connections with this church would recognise this story, and I apologise for any sadness that might result from reading it; but it is a very instructive example of how a principality can utterly destroy a vibrant, Spirit-filled church when it exceeds the limits set for it. Pastors and elders planting a church need

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6. **A young couple had an effective ministry in the Spirit in their church.** They were being very effective in introducing young adults to the baptism of the Spirit, involved in evangelism, and trained people in the gift of prophecy. Then the wife became deeply depressed and doubted the validity of their marriage, She started to believe that she had made a mistake in her choice of marriage partner. Counselling did not seem to do any good. Without warning, she left the family home and the couple ended up being divorced. As a result, the husband spent the next ten years believing that he could never have a ministry for the Lord and involved himself in other activities instead of developing his ministry potential. In spite of the Lord doing some wonderful things to convince the ex-husband that He was still with him and had a ministry for him, the man could not resolve his despair and went into a number of inappropriate relationships that had his ministry in a particular church undermined. It was not until many years later that the Lord was able to turn his spiritual life around and restore his ministry potential.

Here is another young couple whose ministry was destroyed through a principality finding a weak point in one of the marriage partners. Neither of them knew much about spiritual warfare. It was a bit of a “buzz word” in that church at the time, with some “**doing spiritual warfare**”, but it mainly consisted in loud public prayers, plenty of yelling about “binding and loosing”, but mainly, as Shakespeare said: “Full of sound and fury, but signifying nothing.”<sup>8</sup> Many were treating spiritual warfare **as a kind of “game”** not fully realising the

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to be very much aware of spiritual warfare, and take special care that they are clothed with the armour of God, and to know how to wield the sword of the Spirit effectively against the powers of darkness. This is absolutely essential for church survival, especially when it starts to show the power of the Holy Spirit in its ministry to the community around it.

<sup>8</sup> She should have died hereafter.  
 There would have been a time for such a word.  
 Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow  
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
 To the last syllable of recorded time.  
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle.  
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
 And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
 Told by an idiot, **full of sound and fury,**  
**Signifying nothing.**

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, Act 5, Scene 5, Line 16-27.



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serious issues involved when principalities are stirred up to action. Clinical depression is a nasty weapon of the powers of darkness because it sneaks up on a person, alters their perceptions of life and relationships, and holds that person in the grip of despair, and sometimes only the ministry of deliverance can free that person from the emotional prison that holds him or her in bondage. **But deliverance can make such a difference!**

“Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray:  
I woke the dungeon flamed with light!  
**My chains fell off, my heart was free,**  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.”<sup>9</sup>

7. **A single man joined a suburban church and became a deacon** and was an effective support for the young adults, and was able to preach from time to time. Then he came under pressure from a woman in the same church to enter into a relationship with her. He went with her for a while and then decided that she was not the woman for him, so he ended the relationship. She went to the pastor's wife and disclosed all the personal secrets about activities that took place while they were together. This was gossiped around the church without the man's knowledge, all the while wondering while the atmosphere in that church had become cold. Little did he know that people had become cold toward him. When he found out, he resigned as a deacon and left that church.

Here is an example of **a serious, committed believer** who was promoted to a position of leadership in a church. He was determined, in his role, to make a difference in the lives of others. But being single, he was lonely for female companionship. **His weak point** was that he was not very wise in his choice of companions, and therefore was vulnerable to the attractions of a woman who had been unhappy in her marriage and was separated from her husband. Again, a specialist demon was sent who was expert at “match-making” unequally yoked couples and was partly successful. But when that did not last, another demon was sent that specialised in revealing secrets and exaggerating the facts, linking the woman up with someone else who enjoyed listening to “the latest gossip”. This sent some very negative ripples through that church at

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<sup>9</sup> Charles Wesley, Hymn: “And Can It Be, That I Should Gain.”

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the time. All this was done **to neutralise the effectiveness of a godly deacon** who, all he wanted was to serve Christ in that church. But in doing so, he breached the limits, and he paid for it.

8. **A pastor in a church was dominated by the church secretary**, who was an accountant. The pastor felt intimidated by the man, and was often belittled in the church leaders' meetings. Eventually the pastor resigned and went into secular employment. I believe that the principality controlling that church undermined the ministry of that pastor because it wanted to close down that church. It almost succeeded and it became a satellite of a larger suburban church of the same denomination.

In order for that church to remain within the limits set for it, the pastor had to be kept in check. He was a godly man who sacrificed much to be in the ministry. He worked hard to grow his church. To keep him in check, the principality provided, as the church secretary, a dogmatic, formalised man who disagreed with much of what the pastor was doing, and so intimidated him in the leaders' meetings. This secretary ruled the pastor with fear, and I believe was greatly assisted **by a spirit of fear, being put on the pastor to keep him in line**. This is the snare of "man-pleasing". It gives rise to spirits of fear, domination and spiritual bullying. Believers who are gripped by these spirits are able, after deliverance, to say, "no" without feeling guilty about it.

9. **A person who had a recognised gift of prophecy** gave words of encouragement in the Sunday services of a particular city church. One of the senior elders, who tended toward power and control, would immediately follow up a lot of the prophecies with his own, causing people to forget the first prophecy and to remember his own. Here is an example of a principality **using an elder of a church, who otherwise had a successful ministry**, to undermine a prophetic person genuinely moving in the Spirit.

I believe that there were limits placed on this church as to the quality and effectiveness of the prophetic words and the development of the prophetic gifts in people other than those in the close social group of the senior elders. When any person gave prophetic words that were not agreed with by this particular elder (regardless of whether they were consistent with God's Word or not), that elder felt that he had to annotate the prophecy with his own and to "smooth out" any challenging aspects that might have been expressed. This

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could have been driven by a spirit of pride, making that elder believe that he had a better “ear” to the voice of God than others. Principalities can use this tactic to induce church leaders to keep people “under control” and not allow godly people, moving in the Spirit, to have so much freedom, that the meeting goes in a direction that is not expected or regulated by the principality.

10. **A pastor in a small-town Charismatic church** taught his congregation that the members of the Pentecostal church down the road were not their brothers and sisters in Christ but were just “cousins”. He instructed his people not to attend the services of the other church, and when a conference was arranged by the other church that involved a guest speaker of the Charismatic denomination , that pastor travelled to the city where the guest speaker lived and told her not to come and speak to the conference. He then went and told the Pentecostal pastor that “I have closed down your conference.”

Here is an example of the pastor of a denomination that is driven by a party spirit and a spirit of domination. He is not making a personal attack on the pastor of the other church. It is more of **an attack on the church itself**, to limit its potential in that town. If the two churches worked more in unity, instead of having this adversarial relationship, the spread of the Gospel message would have gone out with much more power, and many more souls would have been saved. But that was exceeding the limits set by the principality. **Principalities will always seek to limit any operation of the church that involves winning souls for Christ.** The devil’s purpose is to get as many souls into hell as possible, and therefore will do all he can to block and hinder any attempt to get the Gospel to sinners and to cause them to understand it. So infiltrating a church with “pride of denomination” that makes it think that it is a “cut above” other churches in the town, is a sure fire way of preventing the type of Christian unity that would open the floodgates of salvation to sinners.

11. **A large city church was very successful in winning souls**, equipping believers, and providing a very good environment for growing its members spiritually. This went on for about seven years. It was instrumental in organising conventions and special meetings involving some of the most prominent “big name” ministries from around the world. Then, in the seventh year, one of the senior elders decided to leave and form a Charismatic church in the same city. He took half the congregation with him. To be fair, **he consulted with the other elders and received their blessing.** At the same time, another elder,

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without consulting with anyone, left and took fifty members to form his own church. As a result, the large church closed, and the city ended up with three smaller churches doing their own thing with no communication among them. No more large conferences involving international ministries were reported as taking place in that city since.

So how did the principality organise that? He used the personal ambition and pride of certain church leaders to split up a powerful fellowship that was instrumental in building up the body of Christ over a wide area of that part of the country. Although the first elder who went with the blessing of the others, I believe that there was an element of pride and personal ambition involved. It was noted that he exercised strict personal control, through **a pyramid governmental structure**, over who was allowed to have ministry in his church, and there was a strong element of legalism and the sense if one did not follow the “rules” they were either not welcome, or relegated to the “back benches.” The other church of fifty members seemed to have disappeared into obscurity and no longer had any effective city-wide ministry. **Splitting up an effective church is a common way for a principality to dilute the effectiveness of the building up of the body of Christ**, the spiritual growth of believers, and the advance of the Gospel.

12. **Another large city church that started off with a particular prophetic vision**, grew from small beginnings, grew and developed into a significant church under the banner of a well-known Charismatic denomination. When the foundation pastor left the church and went into another ministry, applicants were considered for his replacement. A person was chosen, and the previous pastor felt strongly that this was not the right person to continue the prophetic vision of that church. He was overruled and the new pastor was appointed. Over a period of time, the church declined and eventually closed through lack of members. Another example of a successful church undermined and closed down through the action of the principality over that city.

An effective way of neutralising a powerful church, and to dislodge it from its prophetic foundation, **is to appoint the wrong man** to the pastoral role. Whether we like it or not, the pastor of a church, in these days, is **the key person to whether the church succeeds** in the ministry of the Gospel and of the Spirit, or descends to a formalised mediocre “bless-me” organisation that has little effect in the unsaved community.

13. **A group of men and their wives started an evangelistic organisation** in a city. This was very effective, won many for Christ through its coffee bar ministry and outreaches to the streets of the city and to other summer holiday venues. Then they went through a series of events when the teenage children of those organisation leaders got caught up in relationships that involved fornication and immorality. This was a great disappointment and the distractions resulting caused a lot of time that could have been spent developing the ministry trying to sort out the damage to the lives of the teenagers plus giving a lot of grief to their good parents. Here's where a principality attacks an evangelistic organisation **through the leader's children**. The leaders challenged the principality by casting out demons and winning souls for Christ, and were "beaten up" by the principality and the attending demons.

Here is a principality using **the weak points** to try and bring down a successful evangelistic organisation. The details are different in each case, but the method is basically the same – find a chink in the armour and direct the arrows at it. In this instance, there were **gaps in the breastplate of righteousness** in the lives of the leaders' teenage children. You will find, in each case where the devil has successfully attacked a church, person or organisation, that there are gaps in the spiritual armour where the fiery darts of the enemy can penetrate. Once a breach is made, there is little to stop the defeat, unless by the grace of God, the Holy Spirit intervenes, mainly through **the powerful intercessory prayers of godly people**, to drive the enemy into retreat. This evangelistic organisation recovered through that very means.

14. **Here is another event that probably has been repeated many times in churches around the world.** A pastor of a very large Pentecostal church, and with an international reputation, entered into an affair with his secretary and ran off with her, deserting his wife and children. As a result, the church's ministry was undermined and lost most of its effectiveness. I don't need to repeat that this was the work of the principality over that city who was threatened by the effective work of God that was doing damage to the kingdom of darkness there.
15. **A successful pastor of a well-known Pentecostal denomination** took young people into his home to disciple them and get them on to the right track with the Lord. One of these was a young woman who appeared to be making

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progress, and then she became pregnant by her current boyfriend. Someone in one of the city churches decided to spread around that the pastor was the father of the child. This caused quite a challenging set of circumstances for him and his family to deal with at the time. A pastor of another city church tried to have him expelled from the ministers' fraternal for "immoral conduct", and it was only the intervention of other respected ministers that prevented it.

Here is the pastor's own testimony of these events:

*"The young lady we took into our home to get set free from drugs and Satanism was separated from her drug-dealing husband but living with us. They still saw each other. As a result of Satanism the lady had a curse of barrenness placed on her and she was never able to have a child. We broke the curse of barrenness off her life and then got pregnant by her husband (but still living with us). The story went round town that I was the father of the child. Then the story got exaggerated so that I was the father of all the children born in the church (which was going through good growth at that time). Then I was accused of being a homosexual because some Christians believed I harboured homosexuals in the church. Then came the attempt to have me blacklisted from the Ministers' Fraternal because I was "spreading lies and deception" around New Zealand!! This all happened at the time when we had the three death contracts on my life from the Satanists and underworld bosses ~ at a time when we felt we needed the support of our Christians brothers and Sisters more than ever! And we ran into all that. Praise God He stuck with us and today we are touching multiplied thousands around the world . . . while our accusers are hardly ever heard of again!"<sup>10</sup>*

The pastor testified that it was a time when the Lord taught him how to love people. But as we start to understand the ways of the devil, we can see that there was a real attempt to use that godly man's good work toward needy people to form a lie and then get other godly pastors to believe it. This shows the absolute evil nature of the devil that he would use **the most godly pastors** in a city to try and destroy a powerful and effective ministry.

What happened here was that there was **a gap in the girdle of truth**. It was not because the pastor or his wife were dishonest. It was because their female boarder kept important information about her relationships from them. **If she had been more open and truthful**, the pastor and his wife could have used intercessory prayer and wise counselling to offset any future consequences and resulting issues. When people lie and deceive good people, this opens up the

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<sup>10</sup> Printed with kind permission. Name withheld for privacy reasons.

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way for the arrows of the enemy to penetrate and wound good people. The wounds to this family took a long time to heal.

**16. Another story concerns deception and lying; this time through a lying spirit.**

A travelling healing evangelist was sent out from a local church to itinerate through an area of the country that badly needed the Gospel message. This evangelist had remarkable results, and numbers of people were saved and healed. Then there was a division in his home church, and he received information about the pastor which was incorrect, but he believed it, and as a result abandoned his ministry, and for many years did not have any significant fellowship with that church or its pastor. It is interesting to note that after he came home from that area of the country, other preachers went through where he had ministered, teaching false doctrine and undid all the years of work that he had accomplished among those people.<sup>11</sup>

**17. There was a church that started off with the vision of reaching the community around it for Christ.**

It started very well and had a very good membership. But the principality of the area decided that this church was going to be a threat, so it orchestrated a division based on the most ridiculous of reasons, and several members left the church. Then the church employed a minister who was aware of spiritual warfare and he attempted to come up against the powers of darkness that he knew were trying to influence the church and keep the Gospel from being shared with the community. The principality stirred up a general revolt against him which caused his resignation, and this got around the community giving people the impression that the church was made up of nasty people who threw their minister out.

The church then employed a succession of semi-retired ministers who preached within limits but were careful not to “rock the boat”. The church slowly but steadily declined in membership, especially in its young adults because of the principality’s limit that only formal services could be held, even for a Saturday night confirmation serve for the young adults. These young adults had to sit through a formal “Sunday type” service, and none of those young adults ever returned to the church. The purpose was that the

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<sup>11</sup> Shared with me in 1970 by the pastor of the church involved. This is a very general account, and many important details may have disappeared into the mist of time, but the principles of how principalities can destroy ministries, churches, and relationships between believers through lies and deception.

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principality did not want a committed group of young adults in the church because that was a threat to the devil's purposes for the area.

The next minister was employed and he preached sermons that were informational, but did not contain a lot of Bible principles. He certainly did not preach the Gospel in order to sin souls for Christ. After three years, he resigned and wrote a report to Presbytery recommending that the church be sold. This was the purpose of the principality – **to get the church sold so that it no longer had any influence in the community**. The design of the devil is that the community remain godless. Half of the membership left the church as a result because they believed that there was no future for that church. It was only the prayers and faith of those who were left that kept the church going. This is a prime example of a church with potential in the community, limited and hindered by the governance of a demonic principality under the command of the principality governing that area of the city. The members of that church have **had little training in spiritual warfare**, so their ability to withstand these attacks and to drive the enemy back is limited.

But the history of that church **is not unique**. That story can be repeated in similar fashion in churches right around the country. There are closed churches in every town and city that are **monuments** to the failure to defeat the principalities that have worked to close them down to no longer have any further Gospel influence on those towns and cities.

18. **A church pastor discovered a deeper walk with God through the Baptism with the Spirit**, and he started a home group to encourage others to enter into the same experience. The home group was so successful, with the gifts of the Spirit being freely exercised, that his home was jam-packed with not only people from his own church, but others around the community joining in. One of the more senior pastors heard about it and accused him of teaching things "contrary to the doctrines of our church" and demanded that he resign his pastorate. So, in effect, he was kicked out of his "evangelical" church because he taught that the gifts of the Spirit, including tongues and healing were for today and very real for every believer.

Here is a good example of a principality governing a church denomination, and when one of the pastors steps over the boundary, the principality instructs a more senior pastor to get rid of the offender, so that the church does not



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continue to be a threat to the devil's plans and purpose for that area. We are not talking about a false cult here, but a well-known evangelical denomination which, on the surface of things, advertises itself as a church that seeks to win souls for Christ and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit; yet, when a principality tells a senior pastor of that denomination to "jump", he asks, "How high?"

This type of event happened many times in many churches of that denomination, when members got baptised in the Spirit and started speaking in tongues, ministering healing, and encouraging others to enter into the same experience with God. Each time, the principality governing the churches in that denomination sent a pastor to the person to demand that he leave the church and "go to a church that suits your aspirations."

19. So, in one instance, **a man of my acquaintance, who had a great homegroup in a traditional church**, was asked to leave because one of the ladies received the gift of tongues and started to encourage other ladies to come along and receive it as well. Of course, a couple of old ladies "dobbled him in" to the pastor, and he was told to leave the church and go to another one that suited him better. So he did, and joined up with a church of a well-known Pentecostal denomination in the same city. The pastor of that church welcomed him with open arms and was very supportive. For a while this church was moving deeply in the Holy Spirit, and had attracted many people with musical abilities. But this type of church used prophecy to guide its pastors and members, and one day someone prophesied that "God is sending you to Invercargill".<sup>12</sup> The pastor who came in replaced him; he was absolutely tone deaf and had no desire for good music at all. Consequently, the life went right out of that church.

In that case, the principality controlling that denomination, decided that the church was becoming too much of a threat to the devil's operations in that city, so he sent a lying demon to give a fake prophecy to get rid of the godly pastor and replace him with a man who was more suitable to how the devil wanted to do things there. The principality exploited a weakness in that denomination, in the way they used directional, personal prophecies as a tool for guidance. This is not what New Testament prophecy is for. It is not to replace the guidance that comes through the Holy Spirit in the heart of an individual. Because of the

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<sup>12</sup> A city in the South Island of New Zealand.

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misuse of the gift, the devil was able to destroy the fruitfulness of a church that was having a strong impact on its local community.

20. **A pastor in his first church was given the impression that if his ministry failed to get the desired results over a period of time, the blame would be put on him**, and he would be identified as a failure as a pastor. This would have the potential of affecting his acceptance as a minister/pastor in his denomination and therefore his future in the ministry. This often happens in many churches where people believe that success or failure depends solely upon the pastor. This happens frequently in the traditional denominations where the minister is the “one-man-band” who has to bear the burden of the general ministry of the church. In more “free” churches where there is a clearer perception of “body ministry”, where a larger group of members take an active part in the spiritual ministry,<sup>13</sup> responsibility is shared among all members, rather than the burden being borne by one or two people “at the top”.

The purpose of the principality or power controlling that church has a number of functions. (1): It is to get the pastor/minister bound up in the “fear of man”, where he/she is afraid to “rock the boat” by starting innovative things to improve the spirituality and effectiveness of the people. Even though he may be hearing from the Holy Spirit to launch out in faith, believing God, he has difficulty because his fear of retribution from the congregation may provide hindrances. So, he treads the “safe path”, and the church remains in a mediocre state. (2): The congregation is “hoodwinked” into believing that the success/failure of the church is on the shoulders of the pastor/minister, and that the members have no responsibility for the outcomes. This is a lie, because the church is compared to a “body”<sup>14</sup> and every part has an important function, and if one component fails, then the whole body suffers. The principality will hinder any development of individual roles and gifts within the congregation, because this will take the overall control out of the hands of a “one-man-band” pastor/minister.

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<sup>13</sup>IE: preaching, counselling, running Bible Study and home groups, ministering healing and deliverance, pastoral home visiting, etc.

<sup>14</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

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A lot of the power and control that is demonstrated by a pastor/minister stems from his fear of criticism, and his wrong perception that the success/failure of the church depends solely on his ministry.

The particular demons employed by the principality are man-fearing, critical, co-dependence, laziness, complacency, responsibility-avoidance, inferiority, false-submissiveness, discouragement, disillusionment, false-expectation. There are probably others not named, because this is such an important area in the ministry of the church with the potential of doing great damage to the kingdom of darkness, that the principality will enlist a whole army of demons to ensure that the church does not “get out of control” and allow the Holy Spirit to have His way.

21. **I remember a time in the 1970s that our Teen Challenge team went and worked with a Presbyterian church in a provincial town.** The minister would not let any member of the team preach in his morning service, so we had to groan through what was a pretty boring, academic sermon. Then one of the elders decided to have a prayer-time at his home in the afternoon, for the Sunday night service. Halfway through, the minister turned up, saying how dare we organise a meeting without his permission, and sat in the middle of the group like a tin god! That effectively “killed” any effective intercession that might have happened that afternoon.

The principality governing that church was ensuring that it was not going to go out of the set boundaries. It had its minister placed there to achieve it. As soon as the boundary was crossed through an intercession meeting being set up, the principality went into action, got the dominance demon to motivate the minister to go and take charge of the meeting so that the demon could take control and hinder any effective prayer that might have caused a disruption to the devil’s purposes in that town. Although the team spent the weekend going from door-to-door, sharing the Gospel, no observable results were gained through all that effort.

22. **In a small provincial town, a home group started up with people who had come into the Charismatic experience** and wanted to fellowship together and share what the Lord had done in them. This home group swelled to over thirty people, and was getting too large for the home where they were meeting, so they hired the local hall and decided to have Sunday morning meetings. In

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effect, they became an independent Charismatic fellowship. Through good ministry and effective evangelism, the fellowship grew to over eighty members and was having a good influence for good in the town.

Then, a couple of the members, influenced by the erroneous “covering” doctrine, believed that the fellowship should align itself to an established Charismatic denomination. A particular well-known denomination was chosen because one of those members had aspirations of being a minister in that denomination.<sup>15</sup> A visit was arranged for the head Apostle and the chief Prophet of that denomination to come to a Sunday service, where the Prophet was to prophesy, and the Apostle was to preach the message. What took place was that the Prophet went around people in the congregation and gave personal prophecies over them that were mainly guidance about being “under the covering”, and the message from the Apostle continued with the same theme.

What happened was that the fellowship came under the banner of the denomination and a pastor was appointed to take over the fellowship from the existing leaders. The result was that **in six months, the fellowship shrank to below twenty members** and in around twelve months was **no longer in existence**. The member who advocated the transfer to the denomination trained to be a minister, but something happened and he ended up being a broken man, out of the ministry, and achieving little.

So, what was happening here? There is a principality over that small town, and when that small fellowship started to grow and have an influence in the town, the principality was threatened, so it put measures in place to neutralise it. It joined forces with the principality that was controlling the Pentecostal denomination,<sup>16</sup> and the two working in partnership put together **a plan to destroy the effectiveness of the fellowship**. Firstly, the principality despatches a lying demon to speak in the mind of members that it is important that the fellowship places itself under “the covering” of an established denomination. **The “covering” doctrine is a “doctrine of the devil”** mentioned

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<sup>15</sup> This particular denomination has its roots in the traditional Pentecostal movement. Their “prophets” are appointed by the hierarchy, rather than on the basis of their gifting. Needless to say that the resulting prophecies would comply more with the policies of that denomination, rather than originating from the heart of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>16</sup> Are we surprised that demonic principalities can control Pentecostal denominations? No, we are not; especially when that denomination becomes formalised and adopts doctrines unknown to the New Testament.

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in Scripture.<sup>17</sup> Then another demon is despatched that specialises in using personal ambition to influence the introduction of the particular denomination governed by the other principality. Because the member involved is respected as a leader, the rest of the membership are blinded to the reality of what is happening. When the Apostle and Prophet arrive, the lying demon puts his false prophecies into the mouth of the Prophet, who speaks into the lives of those present. Because of the lack of experience in the members, they cannot discern that what is being spoken into their lives and into their fellowship **is coming from a lying spirit and not from the Holy Spirit**. Then the Apostle preaches the false doctrine, which “seals the deal”. Who would be prepared to get up and tell the senior leader of a prominent Pentecostal denomination that he is preaching a demonic doctrine intended to deceive the people? It was unfortunate that there were no members with the gift of discerning of spirits in that congregation at that time.

Once the fellowship became part of the denomination, then the pastor authorised by the principality was sent to lead the fellowship. That pastor might have been a sincere person, wanting to serve the Lord, and not aware that he may himself is being manipulated by the principality and the appointed demons. The result is that the fellowship loses its effectiveness and starts to die. But the principality is not finished yet. He would have sent a demon of discouragement and disillusionment to finish most of the members off, and to destroy the ministry potential of the member who was aspiring to become a minister of that denomination.

To my knowledge, no other effective godly fellowship has been able to establish itself in that town since that time.

23. **A young man discovers a real and living relationship with Christ through the revelation of the Holy Spirit.** Because of traumatic events in his childhood, he had grown up feeling inferior and of little worth. Even when he joined a church, there was no improvement in the way he felt about himself, and even the ones who were discipling him treated him as a problem case with little hope of improvement. After trying all the religious ways of succeeding as a Christian, in desperation he sought the Lord, and as a result, he received the revelation that changed his whole thinking concerning how God felt about him.

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<sup>17</sup>“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

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He discovered that he was totally accepted by the Lord, and that he was a valuable person with the potential of being the person God wanted him to be.

The view of himself that the Holy Spirit showed him was directly opposite to how his Christian peers saw him. God did not view him as a problem case at all. He basked in that revelation, and got a lot of his questions answered by the Lord in the weeks that he was away from the influence of his peers. But when he went back into fellowship with the others, he went back into a conflicting environment, because his peer group would not view him any different to what he was before. He lost a lot of his confidence in the revelation he had received and could not get free from the “fear of man” for many years. Even though he moved to another city and associated himself with another group, he still found himself under the influence of mentors who kept him in bondage, and he could not regain the freedom that he experienced when he first received the revelation.

After many years, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and his realisation that these mentors could not provide him with the answers that he needed in some serious issues that he was facing, he “walked away” from those mentors and decided to put his full trust in Christ alone. It was then that he re-discovered his real identity as a believer fellowshiping with the Lord.

Here was a young man who became a potential threat to the principality by receiving a revelation about himself from the Lord that would have developed a very powerful and effective ministry. So the principality sent a demon specialising in generating the “fear of man” in a person and a lying demon to convince him that his mentors knew more than what God had revealed to him. The consequence was that many years of potential ministry and development were wasted, until the Holy Spirit was able to break through the bondage and show the person what was really important. Although we are to respect our mentors, if they are controlling our minds and our relationship with God, then they are spiritually abusing us and not disciplining us appropriately in the Lord. Mentors who use religious abuse to control and guide us are not of the Holy Spirit but are representing satan and therefore should be soundly rejected.

### **24. Children brought up in Christian families are especially vulnerable**

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These stories can be repeated time after time in many cities around the Western world. We have seen on the news how many pastors of “mega-churches” have been caught in affairs, homosexual relationships, embezzlement of funds, etc. Many of these have been publicly disgraced, and the effect of this has seriously undermined the work of the Spirit in their communities, not counting the immeasurable harm that has been caused to their wives and children.

Some of these examples have involved churches where I was a member, and I do not apologise to include them because **they serve to show the different ways that principalities attempt to control churches** and undermine their ministries when they become a threat to the devil in an area.

There are many good people who have been the subject of attacks from demons sent by principalities, and who were unaware of the source of the attacks. Often they have not been able to look beyond the human agencies that have undermined, criticised, rejected, or bullied them. Often, because of a lack of experience in the spiritual warfare area, they have not had the discernment to know that **it was demons that set these things up**, and they certainly would not have had the skill or ability to counter the attacks, discouragement, despair, or that “gutted feeling” that comes with the unfair, unloving and inappropriate conduct of others toward them, As I said before, it is hard for believers to perceive or admit that their church might be governed in some way by an evil principality working under the command of the devil. Also, I want to repeat that the attacks and deceptions **happen only in those churches that are the most godly and effective in the ministry of the Gospel.**

The level of governance by principalities over churches is lower or higher, depending on the faith and holiness of the church members. A church that is made up of members who have a strong faith in God’s Word, and who know where they stand in Christ, knowing the authority they have in the spiritual realm, and are doing all they can to live holy lives before God, **has a much wider range of freedom** to spread the Gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons, and build up the believers, than a church that is mostly ritualistic, modernist, and worldly.

The principalities that control churches set boundaries on them, limiting what they can do. For example, a church may be permitted to have Sunday services, sing hymns, have Bible readings, and the minister preach a “middle of the road” sermon that might provide some moral guidance and theoretical Bible knowledge. That might be within the boundary set by the principality. There may be a warning given by demons speaking in the minds of the leaders and some members that “raising hands is not done here”, or, as someone told me in the church where I fellowship, after we had a GFM team come and minister to us: “we are [a specific denomination], and we don’t

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go into that sort of thing like giving prophecies here.” What is happening is that **the principality has set boundaries** and these are communicated by the subordinate demons to the influential members of the church. Coupled with that is **a threat of punishment if the boundaries are crossed**. So, if people start raising their hands in worship, or drums and guitars are included in the worship music, or prophecies start to appear, the amount of income to run the church might suddenly decrease through the death of several older, wealthy, contributing members; or the roof of the church might suddenly need urgent repairs costing thousands of dollars; or the insurance bill might go up to astronomical levels due to a new engineer’s assessment of the church building. In this way, the church is getting a thorough “beating” for **transgressing the “rules”** set by the governing principality.

You don’t believe that? Do a study of the churches in your region that have enhanced the worship style, or have started a soul winning campaign, or started an Alpha course, and find out how many members have left the church, or have stopped contributing to the offering, or who have harassed the minister, or complained to the Bishop, Presbytery, or other church governing board that the particular church may have.

How many people have ever telephoned the elders of a church to find out who is preaching on Sunday, and when they find out that a certain preacher is preaching, decide not to attend church? I wonder if it is because the principality that is governing that church does not approve of that person preaching there, and is punishing the leadership by causing a good number of members not to attend every time he preaches. You’d be surprised at how often that happens.

**Some principalities have set ridiculous limits**, such as what side of the church the piano should be, and all hell breaks loose if the piano is shifted just a couple of metres. Or that the pulpit should always be at the side of the raised platform, and if it is moved to the centre, most of the old ladies refuse to come back to the church until it is put back to where it was. And what about the elder who goes up to the minister and taps his watch if the minister delays the start of the service by just one minute? Or while the preacher is “in the moment” straight after preaching the message, as he steps down from the pulpit, a member pounces on him and criticises several aspects of his message?

People walking out of a service when a preacher says something they disapprove of can be a punishment for **preaching something that the principality has not authorised**, and so he distracts the service, upsets the preacher, and causes the ones who walk out to miss out on the rest of the ministry and fellowship.



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In many congregation meetings, there are the people who grizzle about relatively unimportant matters. They are determined to have their way and threaten to leave the church if the eldership or minister does not attend to their demands. Something like just putting a security lock on the door of a storeroom that contains cleaning chemicals dangerous to young children can cause some to get their noses out of joint and to resign from their church duties, causing others to have to take up their workload; or they and their families leave the church.

Another group will use a week day coffee group morning to form a pressure group to get the leadership to do what they want in the church, regardless of the outreach purpose of the group. Visitors to that group from the general community have to put up with extended grizzling about the activities of the church, to the point where the visitors never come back. I wonder how many souls were lost to Christ because of behaviour like that? But **these are the ways that the principalities punish churches** that do not conform to the rules they set.

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## THE DEVIL'S PURPOSE

**W**e know that the Holy Spirit uses means to get the Gospel message across to sinners, to encourage and build up the saints, get people healed and delivered. Christ is the **Commanding General**. The characteristic attribute about the work of Christ through the Holy Spirit is that Christ **is revealed, set up on high, and glorified**. When the Holy Spirit moves and influences churches and people, He makes it **quite clear** that it is Christ who is commanding the action. He does not do His work in a dark corner. He is not hidden out of sight. He is not camouflaged. In fact, **the Holy Spirit does His most effective work when Christ is glorified and lifted up**.

The means that the Spirit uses are the preacher, counsellor, elders, deacons, Christian authors, commentators, the Bible, church services, supportive believers, Sunday School teachers. He sometimes uses dreams, impressions, visions, prophecies, words of knowledge and wisdom, healings, and miracles to draw people to Christ.

The devil also **uses the same means** to achieve his purposes. He can use all the means that I have outlined in the previous paragraph. This is why hypocrites can do all the things in church that genuine believers can do. It is not the outward action, but the **inner motivation and purpose** of that action. The devil's purpose is to undermine the Church. Therefore what he will do is to allow hypocrites to be so integrated into churches and be there as spiritual **"moles"**, totally similar in appearance to good believers that the counterfeit cannot be detected without the gift of discernment of spirits. At a time determined by the principality, the hypocrites will be exposed, and many good people will be disillusioned and have negative feelings about the church "because of the hypocrites in it". How many times have we all heard that as an excuse why people are opposed to the church and its message?

**The distinctive feature of the devil's work is that the "general" is hidden.** The devil will not reveal himself as the architect. Even the principalities themselves will not reveal themselves. They also stay in the background. The demons who carry out the orders of their commanders work as **under-cover operatives**, influencing hypocrites, and even good believers to do evil things. They are **very subtle** in their activities. Without the operation of the gift of discernment of spirits it can be well nigh impossible to detect them. This is why the majority of our churches allow these entities to work unopposed among their congregations.

It is just that ordinary believers cannot see beyond the means that the principalities and demons use to carry out their designs. So if a believer is subject to spiritual

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bullying, he or she cannot see past the bully. He does not have the discernment to see that there is a demon behind the bullying, because he or she could see the demon, the believer would be able **to use authority in the Spirit to cast it out**, and the bullying would cease.

In the same way, a church pastor, happily married with a fine family, may be attracted to his secretary who has been influenced by a demon to use clothes, perfume and conduct to make her sexually attractive to him. Every marriage goes through a “disenchantment” process, and the principality would use this to make him believe that his secretary would be a more supportive and satisfying partner than his wife. Often, when exposed, a pastor says that he did not know what came over him. We might know what came over him – **a demon’s invisible influence** making the “other woman” appear more attractive to him than his own wife. Then the demon will leave him to come back to himself, and another one will come to intensify his feelings of guilt and shame. A suicide demon can be present to try and get that pastor to end his life, thereby preventing any hope of restoration. Demons of condemnation may influence other believers who could have been supportive and brought about his repentance and restoration as a husband and pastor, to bring condemnation on the pastor, spreading poison around the congregation and community, preventing any restoration of his ministry. Even though he might repent of his actions and get right with God, who will forgive him immediately, the principality may influence the ordination committee to cancel his ordination. All these things have happened to very successful and effective pastors over recent years.

**The overall purpose of the devil is to pour out his malice on the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**, and he started by firstly causing the man and woman God created to fall into sin, causing many human beings to end up in the miseries of hell. Then he did all he could to undermine the formation of Israel and its smooth transition to the Promised Land. Then he prevented Israel from defeating all its enemies in the land. He then guided the nation away from the Lord and into idolatry, setting Israel and eventually Judah up for absolute defeat and banishment from their land. He has done all he could to do as much damage to the Jewish race as possible because he knows that at the end the Jews will experience a major revival just before the Second Coming of Christ.

He tried to **undermine** the earthly ministry of Christ, and orchestrated His crucifixion, thinking he had finally defeated God and stopped His plan of salvation once and for all. **Imagine his surprise** when God raised Jesus from the dead and brought total defeat to him and his kingdom!

**Satan does not understand what the Gospel is all about;** He is puzzled about it. You see, the truth of the Gospel is only revealed by the Spirit to those who God chooses to

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save. The devil, principalities and demons have no understanding of the Gospel, because it has not been revealed to them by the Spirit. **God does not reveal His secrets to His enemies.**

So the devil is taken unawares when a Christian believer uses the authority bestowed on him to drive back the powers of darkness. The demons and principalities retreat in confusion. **“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”** (James 4:7). The devil is in confusion because he does not understand why his subordinate commanders and soldiers are unable to stand fast when Christian believers go on the attack, equipped with the armour of God, using the sword of the Spirit, beating up demons. He looks for weak points and counter-attacks, and is only successful if he can undermine the believer’s faith and concentration of the truth of God’s Word. Therefore the important instruction for the believer is that **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”** (Galatians 5:1).

I started on a project where I went to my favourite Christian second-hand bookshop and spent a number of months buying every book I could find by contemporary authors on prophecy, healing, and spiritual warfare. I started learning so much that it was transforming my walk with the Lord, and I started to realise and accept where I stand with the Lord. I learned afresh that I am the righteousness of God in Christ, and have all authority in heaven and earth to use the Name of Jesus to bring healing and deliverance to people under the oppression of the devil. I was involved in a prophetic ministry that enabled me to put this learning into practice. I ministered in a prophetic equipping day about dealing with the devil and defeating him using the authority that the Lord has given us.

At the same time, my teenage daughter experienced bullying at her high school, which persisted over about two years (in spite of my efforts with the school to get it sorted out). Then she changed to a Christian school, and four months into her year there, six students and their teacher drowned in a flash flood during an education field trip. My daughter would have been part of that group, but because she sprained her knee at the school sports, she could not go. But she was deeply affected by the tragedy, and this affected her schooling. She became clinically depressed and left the school without achieving the academic results she should have. Then she enrolled at a hairdressing college, but half-way through she found herself in a relationship with a fellow who was very controlling of her. She dropped out of the college after half-way through the course. She then became addicted to codeine and enrolled herself in a rehabilitation centre. The relationship ended, and after a couple of failed relationships (after she came out of the rehabilitation centre seven months later), she decided to start on a university degree in another city. Her way back to normality was the result

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of much prayer and faith on my part, but she remains confused and uncertain of her Christian faith. She accepted Christ as her Saviour when she was ten years old. This is an example of how, even though I stood strong against the powers of darkness, they came **“around the back door” and attacked my family**. This happens often to pastors and others in ministry.

I got my chance to do university study at the age of 32 after years of believing that I was not intellectually capable of being successful at academic study. I was able to enrol at university and teachers college and successfully completed a diploma of teaching and a Bachelor of Arts. My time in training was very positive, but when I got to my first school I was severely bullied by the teacher who was supposed to be giving me on-the-job training and supporting me in my first year. I now see this as the work of a principality that controls schools, and whose purpose is to undermine and destroy the effectiveness of Christian teachers. I believe the woman who made my life a misery at that school had a bullying demon who used her to try and drive me out of teaching. Of course it failed, and by the grace of God, she went to another school at the end of that year and I was left alone. In the second year at the school, I was in charge of the Christian group, and seven girls accepted Christ at a Christian camp in the mid-term holidays. But the devil decided to beat me up, and my third year was a time of bullying by another teacher, and the year ended up with me being made redundant.

I experienced all types of opposition during my 19 years of school teaching, and I was eventually driven out of teaching through lack of support from management and disobedient children. I believe that all this was the work of demons and I know that my experience is being repeated by many Christian teachers around the world. I believe that there are strong principalities controlling our education systems, because of the potential of Christian teachers to use their influence to win young souls to Christ. Why do you think that prayer in American schools is outlawed? Demons did that under the orders of the principalities that control the American education system.

I gained another position as a Victims Advisor in the Ministry of Justice, and all went well, until I decided to use what I had learned in healing, prophecy and spiritual warfare to build up the body of Christ. Then a colleague whom I happily worked with for a year, suddenly started to interfere with my cases and clients, trying to undermine my work with the team leader and manager. A Christian colleague and I went to prayer about it, and the demon was defeated and both the team leader and the other colleague left the job and went elsewhere. Both of these people disgraced themselves later and left the Ministry altogether. **This shows that although the principality tries to undermine and buffet Christian believers, using the authority of the Name of Jesus through prayer is a sure way to defeat them**, causing the demons to retreat in confusion.

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## Breaking Free From Principalities, Powers, and Demons!

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These are episodes in my own life where principalities have tried to beat me up and punish me in some way because I have decided to make my life effective for God. This supports the Scripture: **"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"** (2 Timothy 3:12). Where does this persecution originate? If we can look beyond the human agencies that are used and manipulated to persecute us, we are able to see the demonic influences and recognise that there is a principality over the church, city, school, workplace, home, or region where you are living and ministering. Once we recognise that, then we are able to direct "the sword of the Spirit" rightly, and not waste time trying to deal with the human, situational, or circumstantial means that the demons are using.

Some in the ministry of deliverance will not challenge a demon until it manifests.

Dr Ed Murphy<sup>18</sup> will start by counselling the person and if there is a demon involved, it will eventually come to the surface and manifest itself. Then he will cast it out of the person. He says that if there are multiple demons involved, it might take several sessions before they are all dealt with. Carlos Anacondia<sup>19</sup>, at the start of his preaching, will speak against demons that are present in the service, using his authority in Christ to bind them. Often when that happens, demons will manifest all over the auditorium, and the effected persons will be led out to the "deliverance tent". Sometimes a demon will manifest as the result of being challenged through either a word of knowledge or a discernment of a spirit. When the demon is correctly identified that way, it will often manifest and then be cast out.

Demons, being under-cover agents, are not keen to be exposed. They will do all they can to remain hidden and unobserved. If a demon is suspected and challenged without the supernatural ability of the Holy Spirit, the demon can cause the person to appear innocent and to maintain that there is no demon present. Demons will lie very convincingly to keep themselves hidden from view. But as we will see in the next section, the Spirit-filled believer has absolute authority and powerful resources to not only do battle against these principalities, **but to defeat them and render them impotent** so that there will be no further hindrance to the spiritual growth of members and the effective ministry of the Gospel in and through that church.

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<sup>18</sup> *The Handbook of Spiritual Warfare*, 2003, Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd.

<sup>19</sup> A well-known Argentinian Evangelist, ministering the Gospel, healing, and deliverance, featured in *The Rising Revival, First-hand accounts of the incredible Argentine Revival – and how it can spread throughout the world*, C. Peter Wagner and Pablo Deiros, Editors, 1979, Thomas Nelson

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Breaking Free From Principalities, Powers, and Demons!

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### EFFECTIVE VICTORY OVER PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS<sup>20</sup>

Even though the devil has placed very powerful principalities over cities, regions, and churches, and these principalities are powerful enough to force even high-ranking angels into a stalemate, we have no reason to be discouraged or to think about retreating. We have this promise from the Lord:

**“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”** (Luke 10:19 KJV).

Notice that Jesus says **“all the power of the enemy”**. This means that every evil entity from the lowest demon to the highest ranking principality, even to the devil’s second-in-command, **has to retreat** when we do battle with them in the role of Christ’s representatives.

Remember when the nation of Israel went over the river Jordan and went up to take Jericho, Joshua was confronted by an angelic person armed with a sword, who identified himself as the Captain of the armies of Israel (Joshua 5:13-6:5). Some commentators identify this Person as the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. This raised Joshua’s faith, knowing that he was **getting supernatural help from God** Himself to fight against the city.

The Christian believer has a much more powerful Captain to lead him. The Holy Spirit. And The Spirit is not just within, He is living inside him. This means that when he goes out in the Spirit to battle against the powers of darkness, he is **operating in the full authority of the Name of Jesus**, and has effectively won the victory even before the battle even starts. **“But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere”** (2 Corinthians 2:14, NIV).

Jesus has **commanded all believers** to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons. Along with His command, are included all the resources for not only fighting the battle, but for winning! There is no “gift of deliverance” mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. **All believers** have the authority to cast out demons, even the most powerful principalities. The most powerful demons have to retreat when confronted by the weakest believer. This is because it is not the personal strength of the believer, but in whose Name he comes.

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<sup>20</sup> This section is written from notes used for a teaching session at the GFM Equipping Station at Hamilton in 2012.

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## Breaking Free From Principalities, Powers, and Demons!

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Remember David when confronting Goliath (1 Samuel 17). He was just a young shepherd boy whose original purpose was to deliver lunch to his older brothers. He saw the Philistine and went against him armed only with a sling and several stones. David was not going in his natural strength and ability. He was going as a representative of Jehovah, and in His Name: **David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied"** (1 Samuel 17:45).

The authority of the Name of Jesus is given to every believer as soon as they are converted to Christ. That is what the devil cannot understand – how such young believers can put his forces into not only an orderly retreat, but an absolute rout with demons running away for all they are worth. In the movie, "North and South"<sup>21</sup> in the battle of Bull Run, where the Union suffered a major defeat, we see images of Union soldiers dropping their weapons and running away for all they are worth. They weren't even taking the time to look back at whether the Confederates were following them or not. They just ran and ran until they became puffed out. This is an indication of the reaction of demon forces when even confronted by the youngest, weakest believer. Why? Because of the awesome, irresistible power of the Name of Jesus.

There are people who are teaching that it is very dangerous to confront the powers of darkness and those who do are in almost mortal danger of vicious back-lashes. This may be true for those who try and confront the powers of darkness in their own strength as the sons of Sceva tried to do (Acts 19:14). But it must be remembered that these were not Christian believers, but unconverted Jewish exorcists. To use their experience with a demon to say that the same could happen to a Christian believer is to tell a lie, because it would not acknowledge that the power of attorney to use the name of Jesus is given to every believer, and not just a select few.

My position is that **every genuine Christian believer, young and old, has absolute authority to confront demons and expect to be absolutely victorious.**<sup>22</sup> Here is my Scripture foundation for that: **Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"** (Matthew 28:18-20). These disciples were not yet baptised in The Spirit. They were young and newly converted, and yet

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<sup>21</sup> Television mini-series, made in 1985.

<sup>22</sup> In a later section, I have stressed sound training and experience for a successful, regular deliverance ministry, as apart from having to deal with a demon in an emergency situation where there is no better experienced person available.

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Jesus gave them His own authority, which was “all authority in heaven and on earth” to go and make disciples in His Name. How did they do that? After the Day of Pentecost, they went out, healed the sick, cast out demons, and spread the Good News of the Gospel.

The only thing that would stop any believer having the confidence to confront the powers of darkness is that he or she does not realise their position in Christ and that they have been given the right to use the Name of Jesus to win victories over sin and Satan as His representative. Remember that God gave Moses a rod and told him to use it in His Name to perform signs and wonders. When he and the nation of Israel were trapped at the shores of the Red Sea with the army of Pharaoh bearing down on them, Moses got down before God and started to pray a desperate prayer. God asked him, **“What are you doing here, crying before Me? Get up and tell Israel to go forward!”** (Exodus 14:15). So Moses went out, lifted the rod and the waters of the Red Sea parted and Israel crossed on dry land. Now this was a mighty miracle, because just imagine four-and-a-half million people crossing the Sea in one day. How wide would the gap between waters have to be to have a great number walking in line abreast to achieve that? The scale of the miracle is mind-boggling! Yet, Moses did it by holding out a wooden rod at the command of God.

But we, as Christian believers have a “rod” by which we can do signs and wonders. It is the Name of Jesus. Sometimes we get before God when attacked by demonic forces and start praying desperately. God has to come and remind us that we have a “rod” in our hands, the Name of Jesus, so what are we doing crying out to Him, when we could get up, go out and confront and defeat those demons using that Name!

Now, if we are to have any chance of defeating the demons that may be attacking our church, there are some preparation steps we must do.

## Breaking Free From Principalities, Powers, and Demons!

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## PREPARATION FOR VICTORY

### Removing the Garbage

**D**emons are like rats feeding on garbage.<sup>23</sup> Remove the garbage and the rats are **deprived of their sustenance**, thereby weakening them. Removing the rats without removing the garbage will just be temporary because either the same rats will return, or new rats will come to feed on the garbage.

This means that we need to prepare ourselves to become familiar with the teachings of the Word of God concerning having and using God's authority over demons. A lot of failures happen because of a lack of sound teaching on where we stand with God, and the nature of the authority that we are given through the Name of Jesus. We need to **study the ministry of Jesus** in the Gospels; what He taught about what we can do in His Name, and what the Epistles teach concerning how we can deal with demonic activities and attacks.

Also, there are many authors and preachers who have done the ground-work and we can read their books and listen to their teaching so that we don't waste time "re-inventing the wheel". If the Holy Spirit has revealed information about resources and successful deliverance ministry to preachers and authors - and they have proved themselves through effective and powerful ministry - let's take advantage of them!

Then we need to get rid of any "garbage" out of our own lives that would hinder our faith. If there is unconfessed sin, latent anger, unforgiveness in our hearts, you can be sure that the demon will emphasise it and throw it back in your face. This does not diminish your authority in Christ because the Name of Christ is not tarnished by sin, but your faith can take a nose-dive, and you can end up believing that this "garbage" in you can be a hindrance to this demon obeying the commands that you are giving. He knows more about the commands of God than you do, and he will assert that if you can't obey the commands of the Lord, why should he through you?

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<sup>23</sup> This example comes from Bill Subritzky; *Demons Defeated: A Handbook on Deliverance*; Sovereign World Ltd, 1/05/1996.

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Jesus knew the truth of that. Remember what He said to his disciples: **“I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me”** (John 14:30, NIV). He had no garbage in His life, so He could confront demons and they could not resist Him. If we can get to the place where all the garbage has been removed from us, and we can truly say that the devil has no hold over us, then we will achieve the same results that Jesus did when confronting demons.

The next thing we have to do is to **take a good, long, hard look at the church**. Is there garbage in the life of the church that demons might be feeding on? When Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church, he identified areas of garbage that was limiting the effectiveness of the church. Party spirit, immoral practices, mis-use of prophecy and tongues, people getting drunk on the communion wine, and being gluttons at the breaking of bread time. They needed to be reminded what Christian love was all about. All these things, and the other things that Paul mentioned, were garbage areas in the life of that church.

James identified serious garbage areas in the churches he visited. He noticed that wealthy people who dressed in fine clothes were favoured for the best seats over poorer people not as well-dressed. He also noticed that they were not getting their prayers answered because they were fighting and disputing with one another over less-important issues.

These are not limited to the Early Church. Isn't it interesting that many hold up the Early Church as the wonderful example of how a church should be, and yet there is so much information that shows that **they had just as many garbage areas** in their churches as we have in our churches right now?

Curry Blake<sup>24</sup> tells of a church he visited, and they were going to televise their service. An old, shabbily dressed man was sitting on the front row. An usher came to him and directed him to the back of the church out of camera range. Curry says that he never went back to that church. A modern day example of what James said not to do. That church would have had a pride garbage area.

The most effective means of dealing with garbage areas in the church is to have **searching preaching and teaching** that gets into the consciences of the members and brings conviction of sin that would lead to them repenting and getting things right with God. Also, **solid teaching** on the need for holiness and right-living as an essential component of spiritual progress, trusting in the Holy Spirit to convict those who need “sorting out”. Many churches try to force holiness by natural means, such as setting rules and regulations for their members. The problem with this is that it can lead to

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<sup>24</sup> Founder and Director of John G Lake Ministries. Look him up on Google for more information about him.

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legalism. Strictness of living needs **to come from the hearts** of the members through prayer and sound doctrine, rather than using natural force and threats to achieve it.

The church counsellor is also an effective person to get to the bottom of problems and garbage in the lives of people who may be influenced or affected in some way by demons. Of course, this has to be an experienced counsellor, able to bring deep emotional and spiritual healing (I don't think that this is ministry for anyone and everyone, especially novices in the church). Although I believe that the youngest novice can drive demons out of people, it takes **wisdom and experience** to be an effective counsellor, to be able to get below the "surface" of a person's life and minister the type of emotional and spiritual healing that is needed. This is not to say that anyone who feels led of the Spirit to give timely and useful advice to anyone else, but being the type of counsellor that can do the deep work in a person's life, takes **a specific calling**, which is displayed through the fruit of the counselling ministry.

In our attempts to get rid of the garbage areas, we have to be careful that it does not descend into a "witch-hunt". Remember the parable Jesus told of the wheat and the tares.<sup>25</sup> That would play right into the hands of the principality, who would use it to further harm innocent believers and damage the credibility of the leadership.

I believe that a church that **allows the freedom of the prophetic**, where the gifts of The Spirit can flow freely in the services, is the one that is best equipped to clean out any garbage areas that might be hidden in the dark corners. That's what Paul believed when he said: **"But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all"** (1 Corinthians 14:24). Although he is referring to outsiders coming into the meeting, there would be little doubt that the members themselves would come under the same conviction. What this shows is that the judgment is coming through the Holy Spirit, and this is the **most effective means** of exposing and eradication of the garbage areas from all sections of the church.

Once the garbage areas have been removed from individuals and churches, the demon influence over them is weakened, and it is easier to deal with them. Often in deliverance sessions - when the demon is strongly resisting - **once the underlying emotional and spiritual problems are resolved**, the demon has **nothing more to "feed on"** and it acknowledges that it has to leave the person.

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<sup>25</sup> Matthew 13:24-30.

### Different Levels of Demon Activity

There are different levels of demon activity that affects believers:

- a. **Demons which harass** – physical ailments and pains, fears, discouragement, contrary circumstances, etc.
- b. **Demons that “piggy-back” on sins of the flesh** – anger, lust, violence, theft, rebellion, pride, selfishness, etc.
- c. **Occult demons** – witchcraft, worship of idols, freemasonry, etc.
- d. **Territorial demons** – controlling churches, communities, towns and cities, countries.

Demons are not primarily responsible for problems. They **latch onto problems that already exist** in the believer. Most demonization is brought into the Christian life when demonized individuals become believers. Most believers who were clean from demons at conversion only become demonized through backsliding or serious falls from grace into depression, discouragement, or sins of the flesh.

### Approach to Demons

**We** should not do a frontal attack on demons right away. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any underlying issues that demons might be “feeding” on. The traditional approach<sup>26</sup> to deliverance is to challenge and attempt to cast out the demon as the first step to deliverance. Often this has either failed, or has expelled the demon only after a lengthy, protracted exorcism session. This has been the preferred option in altar calls, where deliverance is carried out publicly. The trouble with the public approach, especially when there is also loud music happening and a crowd of onlookers, that the underlying emotional and spiritual issues that have opened the person up to demonization are not effectively dealt with. Even if the demon goes, which it is obliged to if the Name of Jesus is used by a Spirit-Filled Believer, it is not long before it comes back again.

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<sup>26</sup> I mean tradition in the Pentecostal churches.



Jesus talked about this: **“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first”** (Matthew 12:43-45).

In the face of so many instances of this very thing happening in churches (where deliverance has been attempted in altar calls), some have questioned the practice, and have discovered that **when the underlying issues have been resolved, then the deliverance is easier and permanent**. Where the underlying issues are not resolved, during a deliverance the subject has writhed, slithered, and screamed as the demon was challenged. With the absence of the underlying issues, brought about by the resolution and removal of them by **pre-deliverance counselling**, many deliverances have just consisted in a sense of relief and peace as the demon has left quickly and quietly.

### **Demons Have To Do What We Say**

**We** can stop demons from being violent or throwing-up over everyone. We tell them that we prohibit this type of manifestation, and **they have to obey**. We can tell a demon to be silent and remain in the background while we deal with the spiritual and emotional issues first. After that, we can bring the demon to attention and order it to leave.<sup>27</sup>

Smith Wigglesworth says that if we have to repeat the command for the demon to leave, we said the first command in unbelief. But of course he was in a place with God where he had no doubts about his authority in Christ. His prayer life **was so powerful** that when he prayed with others present, the intensity of the presence of God was such that none of them could stay with him and were driven out of the room. This is quite foreign to most of us. We can't imagine that type of intensity of the presence of God. We see that Jesus could cast demons out with a word, but then He had The Spirit without measure. We all have a measure of The Spirit, according to our faith. So, what is the answer to that? **Increase our faith by improving our walk with Christ** and our level of holiness before Him. If we were able to achieve the walk with Christ that Smith Wigglesworth had, maybe we could cast a demon out with one attempt!

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<sup>27</sup> This comes from Dr Ed Murphy, *A Handbook For Spiritual Warfare*.

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We have the authority to cast a demon out of a person, but we have no authority as to where they go after that. The devil is the god of this world, and the demons are under his legitimate command. Nowhere in Scripture has the Lord cancelled that. There will come a time when the devil and his demons will be bound and cast into the lake of fire to languish there for eternity. But we have not arrived at that time yet, so in the meantime we have no direct control over where we think a demon should go. Jesus has told us in Matthew 12:43 where demons go when they leave a person, so we don't have to be concerned with that, other than the demon leaving the person and setting them free.

There is **no set formula** for casting out demons. We know that we are doing it in the Name of Jesus even if we don't state it. The demons will know also without us having to tell them. Some do say "in the Name of Jesus" and that is okay. Others just tell the demon to leave, and the demon knows that the command is given in the Name of Jesus. They know that Jesus has given us **the definite command to cast the demons out** and that He will back us with His authority.

It is good to get the person to imagine in his or her mind's eye the demons being placed in a box, closing the lid, and engaging the padlock to lock them in. Then they can "see" the box placed at the feet of Jesus. Sometimes they might see Jesus stamp on the box, causing it to blow apart and vaporize. This gives the person the assurance that he/she has been set free.

Even though Satan and his demons have been defeated at the Cross of Calvary, they are still active. Compare D-Day when in effect the Nazi regime was defeated; but there was still a lot of fighting to take place before the final victory came. Satan knows that his time is short and he is fighting hard to cause as much damage as he can and to keep as many out of the Kingdom of God before he is finally bound and thrown into the lake of fire. So he still has a sting in his tail and we should not take him lightly or flippantly.

When you are dealing with believers whose behaviour suggests demon activity, or they themselves suspect demon activity, we need to take the following steps:

- a. **Approach first on a counselling basis.** Deal with the "garbage".
- b. If the demon manifests before the counselling is completed, **tell the demon to be silent** and wait in the background until you are ready to deal with it. It has to obey you. Deal with the demon on your terms and not on its own terms. You retain total control.

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- c. When you sense that the “garbage” which is empowering the demon has been dealt with, you can **bring the demon back to attention** and tell it to leave.
- d. If there is a struggle, and the demon resists, it may mean that it is still too strong. Maybe not all the issues have been disclosed by the believer. Tell the demon to get back into the background while you “hook out” more of the “garbage”. **Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal further issues** and deal with them. The believer has to be totally candid and co-operative to make it possible to get rid of the demon easily.
- e. If all the issues giving power to the demon are settled, **the demon should go with the minimum of fuss**. All the usual sound, fury and drama that is often seen in Pentecostal deliverances are in many cases unnecessary and show that the demons are being challenged before the “garbage” has been cleaned out.
- f. As long as there is emotional and spiritual “garbage” present, and/or if the believer is not fully cooperating, then the demon will not give up its right to be there, and will make it as difficult as possible to evict it.
- g. In the area of the occult, freemasonry, or idol worship, even having statues, masks, Ouija boards, crystal balls, or any other paraphernalia in the home – demons are invited in. **These things have to be renounced and destroyed**. Use the following steps:
  - i. **Recognise** the source of the demon activity.
  - ii. **Resist** the demon(s) through prayer, and possibly fasting.
  - iii. **Renounce** any participation in occult activities, and get deliverance if necessary.
- h. **A freemason must resign from and totally renounce it** before the demons’ hold on him can be broken. If he is a member of a church, the demon associated with him can hinder the work of the Gospel and prevent conversions from taking place there. He may need to ask forgiveness from the Lord (and from the other members of the church) in order to be completely free.
- i. **We must never under-estimate the power of demons**, but we also know that Jesus Christ is more powerful than they are. Therefore, we are totally dependent on Jesus when we are dealing with demons.

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- j. When going against some powerful demons, **you will need a team of powerful intercessors praying as back-up**. These people need to have and are able to use tongues as an intercessory tool for spiritual warfare.<sup>28</sup>
- k. There are only two ways of dealing with demons:
  - i. Jesus and Paul – success
  - ii. Sons of Sceva – disaster
- l. **We need to be trained of God to cast out demons** like Jesus and Paul. Without training and guidance we will fail, and the demon will outwit us. If unconverted religious exorcists try, they may end up like the sons of Sceva.
- m. For this reason **we don't encourage novices** - or those who are not baptised in the Spirit - to try and do deliverance. Although they have the authority given to them through the Name of Jesus and may accomplish results in emergency situations, having a regular, successful deliverance ministry involves training and experience.
- n. There is a great need for **experienced, mature believers** to be trained in deliverance.
- o. **Be prepared to weather criticism** from those who don't understand the principles of spiritual warfare. These people may be good believers who love the Lord and have a passion for the lost, but they are uninitiated in spiritual warfare, or have a theology that denies the need for it. Remember that every proven deliverance ministry has been savagely criticised by other evangelical Christians, and that Jesus Himself was accused of casting out demons through the power of Belial or Beezel-bub (Matthew 9:34).

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<sup>28</sup> A story is told about Aimee Semple McPherson's power. One night she was preaching in a big hall in Ohio. A reporter got a brilliant idea of how he could prove Aimee was a fake. He was convinced she was rigged up with an electrical wire, and when she touched a person, it shocked them and knocked them out! The reporter asked an usher, "Where's the power generator in this building?" The usher replied, "Oh, it's in the basement."

The reporter grabbed his trusty press camera and took off running for the basement. It was just the break he'd been looking for! He ran to the basement door and flung it open. There before his eyes was the power generator – 50 little grandmas down on their knees praying! (Roberts Liardon, *Success in Life and Ministry*, p 38).

### Occult Demons Invading the Church

**A**s the traditional Church has moved away from the supernatural, this has left a gap in society. The reason for this is that people are hungry for the supernatural because there is the underlying sense that **the natural world is not all there is**. Over the last two decades, there has been an explosion of occult activity to fill the hunger for the supernatural that the church is no longer able to provide.

The occult is not all “smoke and mirrors”; there have been occurrences of “paranormal” activity which can only be explained by the presence of supernatural forces and entities. The occult is **not a new phenomenon**; it has been in the world for thousands of years in different forms. It was very present in pagan cultures before the onset of Christianity, and it is still present in those cultures that still hold to pagan religions and customs. If the Western world does not have a perception of the supernatural, know that things are quite different in the Third World countries.

In recent years, the occult has “come out of the closet” and is quickly becoming an acceptable component in our society. In other words, it is approaching respectability. We see this in programmes like “Sensing Murder,” where two psychics are asked to investigate murder scenes and get impressions of what may have happened and who the murderer might be. Programmes like that are popular viewing if it is out of just curiosity.

As part of the outreach of the church, workers are going to run into people who are involved in the occult. If such people “accept Christ” and join the church, it is quite possible for them to bring the occult demons with them. Because, as we know, demons work “under-cover”, they may lie dormant under a cloak of respectable religiosity, until the time when the demons decide to strike. They may strike at young, new converts, inducing them to believe concepts and ideas which have an occult basis. This can happen in a church that believes in the gifts of the Spirit and the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit. Remember that demons can so emulate The Holy Spirit that it would be difficult to tell the counterfeit from the genuine.

I was in a convention where a group of young converts were sitting in a circle singing that familiar chorus,

*“Jesus, Jesus, let me tell You how I feel.*

*You have filled with Your Spirit.*

*I love You so.”*

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This is a beautiful song when sung appropriately, but this group repeated the song over and over again, and it became a chant that was inducing members to go into a trance-like state. It appeared to be a form of transcendental meditation, and an invasion of the occult into a Holy Ghost Conference.

This is where we have to be very careful about worship times that cause people to be **transported into an “altered state”** (trance-like) through repeated lines of a song, singing in tongues,<sup>29</sup> closing of eyes, blanking of the mind, etc. Worship should be conscious and intelligent, and one should always be fully aware of their surroundings. Trance-like worship can open sincere believers to the occult. Remember that I said that demons will infiltrate good, effective, believers if possible.

This is not to say that people falling under the power of the Holy Spirit and go into a trance-like state is necessarily of the occult. Often believers who have had this experience have described being transported to heaven and hell and told to make their choice. Others have described such a restful state that they have just rested in Christ. The comforting thing about this is that the **devil is not going to do anything that glorifies Christ**, so if a person has an experience that brings him or her closer to Christ and strengthens their faith and dependence on Him, then the experience cannot be of the devil or his demons.

Sometimes an occult spirit may infiltrate a person who is waiting on God for the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and expecting a sensory experience as the evidence to them that the Spirit has come to dwell in them. I have often said that if people are depending on and waiting for a sensory experience to prove to them that they are filled with the Spirit, then the devil is always around to give them one.

So, how do we deal with these spirits when they appear in our church members? Here are some guidelines:

- a. **Have a team of intercessors backing you up.** Don't try dealing with these types of demons without them.
- b. **Don't attack the demons until every vestige of the occult has been fully renounced**, repented of, and the Blood of Christ applied to the person.
- c. Remember that if the person retains any part of occult practice, the demon will see that it still has a right to be there, **so total repentance, cleansing and**

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<sup>29</sup> Just in case some might use what I said about “singing in tongues” to say that all singing in tongues is akin to transcendental meditation. There is singing with the Spirit (in tongues) with the mind fully alert and as part of consciously praising God by singing in another language, and going into a trance and singing in tongues. The trance-like “singing in tongues”, is, not singing with the Spirit at all; it is a counterfeit of the real thing, and we must be careful that we are not chanting demonic incantations when we think we are worshiping God.

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**renouncing needs to happen** to take away the right of the demon to remain and thereby weakening its hold.

- d. **Make sure of your own personal holiness.** Make sure that you have confessed all known sin in yourself and are cleansed from all unrighteousness. Otherwise the demon will argue that you have not the authority to cast it out because of sinful conduct within yourself. That can be embarrassing.
  - i. Get before God before the session and make sure that you are totally under the Blood. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in you that needs to be confessed and blotted out by God.
  - ii. If a demon challenges your own holiness - and you know that you are clean before God - you can defend yourself by pleading the Blood of Jesus against what the demon is accusing you of.
  - iii. You may not have total victory over all your besetting sins, but being able to tell the demons that you have confessed them and have been cleansed by the Blood of Jesus, will silence the demons and maintain your position of authority over them.
- e. Occult demons are very powerful and therefore **expect a battle when moving to evict them from a person.** But if you have done the background work, then the demons will have been weakened and may leave without too much of a struggle.

### Territorial Demons (Principalities)

**T**his is where we return to consider how to deal with principalities. These are much more powerful, high-ranking demonic entities. We hardly see them on “the shop floor”, because they operate at a higher level, further back from the “front line.” This type can only be identified through **the Word of Knowledge and/or the Discernment of Spirits.** For this reason the majority of churches, in the Western world at least, have no idea that these principalities exist, and therefore would never be able to identify or deal with them in any way. A lot of these churches would have

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no idea of the existence or activities of the demonic team commanded by the principality. So, they continue to influence these churches unchecked.

Christian Churches in the Third World Countries are much more aware of demon activity, because it is all in the pagan communities around them.<sup>30</sup> The revival in Argentina<sup>31</sup> features the deliverance ministry, and I have previously described the effects of when Carlos Anacondia bound the powers of darkness in his evangelistic meetings. Nowhere in the Western Churches has the intensity and the number of manifestations of demonization occurred as it has during evangelistic campaigns in Argentina and other South American countries where revival has occurred.

I believe that the best training for dealing with demons and liberating believers from the influence of demons would happen in countries like Argentina where many successful deliverances are taking place. There is nothing like learning from experienced believers.

There are instances of the Holy Spirit revealing to churches and their leaders that there is a principality over a city, or a church, and that measures have been taken to dislodge that principality from its place of authority so that the Gospel can be spread without hindrance. If that happens in your church, then there are a set of principles that need to be considered:

- a. **Important:** You must be led of the Holy Spirit before attempting to do battle with these demons. You need more than just the Logos from the Bible or Christian literature. You need direct Rhema words from the Holy Spirit. And that is **not just assuming** that The Spirit is leading you by “faith”. The Holy Spirit knows how to make you sure that He is leading you. When that happens there is a definite surety. There is no mistake. It is not a matter of “I think The Spirit is leading me”, or that you have stuck a pin on a verse that seems to give you permission. The next principle is one of the essential components of knowing that you are led of the Spirit.

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<sup>30</sup> I have recently heard of a village on the Zambezi River that lost many of its people killed by crocodiles. When asked why there were so many man-eating crocodiles in that particular part of the river, the man telling the story spoke of his grandfather who used his magic to possess the crocodiles to attack the people who rejected him. The grandfather was put to death by the villagers and the frequency of the attacks stopped; but because the people believed still that there were demonically possessed crocodiles in the river near their village, most surviving villagers have fled, leaving it virtually uninhabited.

<sup>31</sup> *The Awesome Argentina Revival* - Lessons in Evangelism and Spiritual Warfare from Argentina; by C. Peter Wagner edited by Chris Simpson and David Little. Source: International Revival Network: [www.openheaven.com](http://www.openheaven.com).



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- b. You must be part of a **ministry team** – including intercessors. You need team members, competent and experienced with the gifts of the Word of Knowledge, Wisdom, and Discerning of Spirits. You may also need members experienced in using the gift of Faith. People trying to take on principalities as **“lone rangers” are rarely being led of the Spirit**. They are more likely to be led by their own enthusiasm. Now, I must say that if they try to take on a principality without the leading of the Spirit, usually nothing will happen. They will get weary of their “spiritual warfare” praying and eventually give up. Because the principality prefers to keep well away from the lime-light, it will just sit back and wait for them to give up.
- c. Do not take on a territorial demon **unless you know (through the Spirit) that you have the right**. You may have the authority, but because people have invited the demon to rule them through worshiping idols, or, in the case of the Emperor of Japan, asking the Sun Goddess to rule and guide the nation and has been either physically or symbolically intimate with her, attempts of evict the demon may fail. The people who invited the demon to rule need to renounce the idol worship and to put up a resistance to the demon.

Now, bearing in mind what I said in principle “b”, the opposite could be true when taking on principalities in Third World Countries. There have been instances of enthusiastic missionaries getting serious back-lash, even losing their lives, because they have marched into idol temples and commanded the demons to leave. In a pagan society where the demons are invited and welcomed, then as part of God allowing the devil to be the god of this world, those demons have a right to be there, and **the Holy Spirit will not protect a person who impinges on those rights**.

It would be quite different if a community in a pagan country came to Christ and then asked the missionary team to go into their temple and cast out the demons. Then the team would have the authority because the community has withdrawn their invitation for the demons to operate and have given permission for the team to go and cast those demons out.

When Paul went into Corinth and Ephesus, he did not go into the pagan temples to cast the demons out. He cast demons out of **individuals** who responded to the Gospel. Later on, when a large proportion of the community had come to Christ, the Apostle John actually went into the pagan temple of Diana and cast the demon out. As a result, the altar split into several pieces and half the temple collapsed.

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- d. A demon can have control over a church where a member or members are engaged in occult practices, such as freemasonry or New Age. The demon will hinder Christian conversions and church growth, and spark-off dissensions, criticisms and divisions, and ultimately cause the church to decline and die. It would be interesting to study the background of declining churches to see if there are members involved in the occult or new age, or if the church building is being used for such activities.
  
- e. The reason why we have never seen a major revival in New Zealand is that there are territorial demons ruling over the various regions as the result of historic pre-European pagan cultures that existed in the country. These demons were invited to rule over these regions by the inhabitants and in many areas these principalities still have over-all command. This is why there are regions in our country where there are difficulties spreading the Gospel with signs following. Because some Maori communities have retained some of the ancient pagan customs, the invitation for the principalities to continue ruling over those regions still remains.

It may be possible to have **localised revivals** where teams of intercessors go into particular regions to break the power of the ruling demons, but we will never see a general revival until these principalities are dislodged. The only chance of that happening is a revival of the miracle-working-power of God to show that Jesus Christ is far stronger than the local and territorial demons. Then, as people in those areas turn to Christ and **transform their culture and practice into one that acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord** - and which weakens the influence of the territorial demons - we will see more wide-spread revivals.

- f. There is a relatively new process for identifying territorial demons that was introduced to the church in the late 1990's. This is **spiritual mapping**.<sup>32</sup> This will be useful in recognising the names and types of territorial demons that are ruling over different regions in our country. The gift of discerning of spirits will be useful in identifying demons that are in rivers and mountains, and the location of territorial demons in different places that hold individuals and groups in the bondage of fear. With spiritual mapping, intercessors can use directive prayer to break the power of these demons and to bind their influence over people whom God has planned to accept Christ.

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<sup>32</sup> It started with John Dawson's book, *Taking Our Cities for God*, published in 1989 by Creation House. The book's subtitle is: "How to Break Spiritual Strongholds." See more information on <http://www.w3church.org/SpiritualMapping.html>.

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- g. With the influx of different cultural and ethnic groups into Western society through immigration, we are seeing an increase in foreign idol worship (Indian, Muslim, Buddhist) and there is an increase in temple building where these idols are being worshipped. This brings new territorial demons ruling over areas of cities where concentrations of Indian, Arabic and Chinese people are living. We need **to identify these demons** and add them to our spiritual map.
- h. Also, with the increasing gang culture, there will be areas of our cities and towns ruled over by the demons associated with these gangs. Usually the concentration of demon activity is over and around the various gang headquarters. Coming close to these headquarters, one can sense the threatening influence of these demons, even though we might not know exactly what they are.
- i. The way to weaken a territorial demon is to **engage in low level spiritual warfare**, i.e.: casting demons out of individuals, coupled with intense, directed intercession. This is what Paul did in Ephesus, and the territorial demon was so weakened there, that the Gospel was unhindered and strong Christian churches were established that lasted for centuries afterward.
- j. The devil has free reign over unconverted people, so demons have a right to be there until the persons come to Christ. **Conversion to Christ undermines the right of demons to have further influence.** We can prohibit any action of a territorial demon to stop people from coming to Christ, but that will happen through strong intercession until the power to stop conversions is broken. Although we can't throw the demon out completely (as long as there are unconverted people serving it), we can greatly diminish its power and influence through individual conversions and deliverances.

## ADVERTISEMENT

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## CONCLUSION

I believe that the key Scripture for dealing with principalities, powers, and assorted demons is this:

**“in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes”** (2 Corinthians 2:11).

There is a classic work titled *“Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices”* by Thomas Brooks (1608 - 1680).<sup>33</sup> This insightful book has never been out-done as giving us the clearest view of how satan works to undermine the faith of believers. The Puritans did not seem to be as aware of demons as believers are today, but they were certainly aware of satan as the enemy of Christian faith and the arch-deceiver. If we carefully examine the text, with demons in mind, we will be able to see the different types of demons and the roles they have to influence unconverted sinners why they should not believe and accept the Gospel, and to de-rail new converts, and to hinder more mature believers fully experiencing all that Christ has for them. It is a good foundation study to make us aware of what demons are attempting to do in our churches.

Also, there are many other good authors who have written about spiritual warfare and demonic activity. Dr. Ed Murphy’s *“Handbook For Spiritual Warfare”* is excellent for tracing the work of demons through the Old Testament to the New. Dr. Murphy also gives some very good points on how to effectively establish whether a person’s difficulties are because of demons, and how to deal with them once they manifest.

We don’t like to think that our churches, even the best ones, have a principality assigned to them to do what they can to hinder the spread of the Gospel, and the spiritual growth of believers. Some principalities have a very easy job, because the churches they “oversee” are already ineffective “monuments” instead of vibrant, powerful, Holy Spirit-filled churches that provide a threat to the devil and his kingdom of darkness. But there are other churches that are doing damage to the devil’s kingdom, and he has appointed some of his most powerful principalities to deal with these churches. When principalities have been successful in overturning some of the large, effective soul-winning churches, the fruit of it has been made very public, as we

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<sup>33</sup> You can download a copy from [www.preachtheword.com/bookstore/remedies.pdf](http://www.preachtheword.com/bookstore/remedies.pdf)

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have read in the news from time to time. Because the news media is controlled by specially-chosen principalities, the downfall of prominent, effective pastors and churches have been very loudly advertised to all and sundry. It is interesting that when any of those pastors have repented and been restored to effective ministry, we have to search to find any mention of them.

The on-going revival in Argentina, with the thousands of conversions, healings and deliverances, is hardly known among people in Western countries, because the news media has somehow missed reporting it. Similarly in the 1960's and 1970's, the thousands of genuine healings, deliverances and conversions that took place through the ministry of A. A. Allen and his contemporaries hardly made the pages of the news media, but when he was found dead in a hotel room supposedly surrounded by empty whiskey bottles,<sup>34</sup> the report made Time Magazine!

So, **we need to be fully aware of the network of principalities, lesser powers, and the billions of demons who do their bidding.** We need to know how they can influence our churches. We need to know that at the top of the pyramid, there is the devil as **the invisible general**, who issues the orders which must be obeyed.

But **we also must know where we stand with Christ;** we need to know how the armour of God (Ephesians 6) protects us, and how the sword of the Spirit can be used to give demons a good beating. We need to know that we have the power of attorney to use the Name of Jesus as our Mosaic "rod" to cause signs and wonders to follow our preaching and sharing of the Gospel.

Paul got it right when he said: **"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile"** (Romans 1:16). The power of the Gospel is displayed when believers, who know where they stand in Christ, use the Name of Jesus to bring healing to the sick and to drive out demons. The actual function of driving demons out of individuals is called "low level spiritual warfare"<sup>35</sup> Higher level spiritual warfare is the dealing with higher level powers and principalities

Dr. Bill Null<sup>36</sup> testified of a vision that he had involving confronting a demon. He said to the demon, "I bind you in the Name of Jesus!" Immediately he saw two large angels appear out of nowhere carrying a large chain with which they bound that demon and whisked it out of sight. He is convinced that when we bind demons, they

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<sup>34</sup> The presence of the whiskey bottles was refuted as a nasty lie, according to those who first discovered his body.

<sup>35</sup> Quoted from Dr Ed Murphy.

<sup>36</sup> Dr. Bill Null a now retired doctor who spends his time ministering at the Lake Hamilton Bible Camp in Hot Springs, AR. He has a powerful anointing for setting the captives free and a comprehensive understanding of how demonic forces work against us. <http://www.lakehamiltonbiblecamp.com/>

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are bound in chains to await final judgment. This shows me that low-level spiritual warfare invariably affects the higher-level principality as more and more demons are bound and cast out, and the principality loses numbers of personnel to the point where it has to retreat.

This is why **we must persevere in binding demons**, even though we don't physically see anything happening. If Dr. Null's vision is true, this is why when we persevere for long enough, the devil orders a retreat, because he can see that he is losing so many of his demonic "soldiers" that if he continued, his forces would be so depleted that his ability to wage war would be seriously diminished.

So, where do we go from here? I have been living the Spirit-filled Christian life for 46 years now, and when I think I have learned a great deal about these things, a door suddenly opens and I see that there are still great areas of learning still to be had. There are some who are **"constantly learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (2 Timothy 3:7). This is always the result of theoretical learning that is never put into practice. May we seek the Lord, that as He reveals all these new insights into His ways, that we put what we have learned into practice, so the Holy Spirit is free to work through us to confirm God's Word with signs following.

**"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well" (Mark 16:17-18, NIV).**

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To get to her, you'll have to come through me!



### Spiritual Warfare Bibliography

This is a selected book list out of the many books that are available on Spiritual Warfare for the person who wishes to improve their knowledge of this area. These books may give a reasonable range of thought, some helpful, some not so helpful. Let the reader judge. The first four books were the most instructive for me, and I recommend them as a starting point.

Rodney W Francis, *Spiritual Warfare*, 5<sup>th</sup> printing 2000, Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry.

This book gives a set of definitions of good and bad principalities and powers, and a brief overview of the principles of Spiritual Warfare.

Dr Ed Murphy, *The Handbook For Spiritual Warfare*, 1996, Thomas Nelson

This is an excellent overview, and the bulk of the book is a survey of the Old and New Testaments of how demons influenced pagan nations and the nation of Israel. Then there is some very practical teaching of how to deal with demons. He advocates pre- and post-deliverance counselling.

Bill Subritzky, *Demons Defeated*, 1985, Dove Ministries

A very practical manual from a man very experienced in spiritual warfare over many years of ministry. He is the one who talks about getting rid of the garbage to enable deliverance to take place.

Jesse Penn-Lewis, with Evan Roberts, *War on the Saints*, 1973, Thomas Lowe

A very penetrating look at counterfeits during a revival. Not popular amongst some Pentecostals and Charismatics, but very instructive nevertheless.

Roberts Liardon, *Breaking Controlling Powers*,

*How to Survive An Attack*,

*Learning to Say No Without Feeling Guilty*, 2000, Albury Publishing

These books contain very practical and faith-building teaching from a man who deals with demons in a very implacable manner. He writes about the use of “strong tongues” as part of intercessory prayer. I found this very instructive

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and has confirmed my own experience with tongues, in that he has helped me identify what has happened to me at times.

The rest are in alphabetical order of title, and contain annotations as appropriate. Where I have wanted to comment on books with a similar theme, I have grouped them in their own sections.

*2000 Years Of Charismatic Christianity, A 21<sup>st</sup> Century look at Church history from a Pentecostal Charismatic perspective*, Eddie L. Hyatt, 2002, Charisma House

This book fills in what many Church historians leave out – the supernatural. It gives a refreshing insight on some of the Christian movements through the ages which were once thought were heretical, but maybe they were more close to the genuine moving of the Holy Spirit than we realised.

*Authority*, John Fergusson, 2010, JF Ministries

*Battling The Prince Of Darkness*, Evelyn Christenson, 1990, Victor Books

*Confronting The Powers*, C. Peter Wagner, 1996, Regal

*Counselling and Deliverance*, Rodney W Francis, Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry.

*Evicting Demonic Squatters & Breaking Bondages*, Noel and Phyl Gibson, 1987, Freedom in Christ Ministries

*Freedom From The Religious Spirit*, C. Peter Wagner, 2005, Regal

This is an excellent study to help us discern between the Holy Spirit in a situation and a religious spirit. Every person wanting to make sure that they are in the Spirit needs to read this book.

*I Believe In Satan's Downfall*, Michael Green, 1981, Hodder & Stoughton

*Occult ABC*, Kurt Koch, 1978, Literature Mission

*Prepare For War*, Rebecca Brown, MD, 1987, Whitaker House

*Prophecy & Responsibility*, Graham Cook, 2007, Brilliant Book House.

This book is one of a 6-volume series on the prophetic. It is an excellent training resource, and provides some of the most practical advice we can get from someone very experienced and genuine in the prophetic. Every believer wanting to move more freely in the prophetic should read this book and the others in the series.

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*Prophetic Etiquette*, Michael Sullivant, 2000, Creation House

This is a penetrating look at prophecy, and explores what is genuine and appropriate. It gives wisdom on where and how prophecies should be given. A must for anyone wanting to function prophetically.

*Run To The Battle*, Roberts Liardon, 1989, Embassy Publishing

*Sharpen Your Discernment*, Roberts Liardon, 1997, Albury Publishing

This is an excellent book for anyone wanting to have more clarity of discernment to know what is in the Spirit, as compared to the world, flesh, and the devil. It deals with knowing good timing and appropriate words to use in different situations. Another indispensable book for every believer wanting to move into ministry.

*Shattering Your Strongholds*, Liberty Savard, 1992, Bridge-Logos

*Spiritual Depression*, D Martyn Lloyd Jones, 1965, Eerdmans

*Spurgeon On Prayer & Spiritual Warfare*, Charles H Spurgeon, 1834-1892, Whitaker

*The Invisible War*, Donald Grey Barnhouse, 1965, Zondervan

*The Red Dragon Cast Down*, E. James Wilder, 1999, Chosen Books

*The Rising Revival, First hand accounts of the incredible Argentine Revival – and how it can spread throughout the world*, C. Peter Wagner and Pablo Deiros, Editors, 1979, Thomas Nelson

*The Twilight Labyrinth, Why does spiritual darkness linger where it does?* George Otis Jr, 1997, Chosen Books

*The Walk of the Spirit the Walk of Power*, Dave Roberson, 1999, Dave Roberson Ministries

The best book on the gift and ministry of tongues that I have ever read. This takes the believer beyond just using tongues as a “punctuation” to prayer. He shows how tongues enhances all the other gifts of the Spirit, and lifts the believer up to a new spiritual level with God. But watch out, the devil hates this book, and will attack your mind to try and talk you out of using the gift of tongues. But stand on God’s Word and he will retreat when he knows he cannot beat you.

*They Shall Expel Demons*, Derek Prince, 1998, Derek Prince Ministries

*Unbroken Curses*, Rebecca Brown, MD, 1995. Whitaker House

*Unholy Spirits*, Gary North, 1986, Dominion Press

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*Warfare Prayer*, C. Peter Wagner, 1992, Regal

### **Abusive Churches:**

The following books deal with churches that can be toxic to godly believers. Not all churches are totally toxic, and some have toxic areas and people in them. These books describe the type of abuse and bullying that can happen in churches, and how this affects individual believers. If you want a better understanding of spiritual bullying and abuse in churches and how to get free of the effects of spiritual abuse, then these books will have great value for you.

*Breaking Intimidation*, John Bevere, 1995, Charisma House

*Churches That Abuse*, Ronald M Enroth, 1992, Zondervan

*Damaged Disciples*, Ron and Vicki Burks, 1992, Zondervan

*The Subtle Power Of Spiritual Abuse*, David Johnson & Jeff Vanvonderen, 1991, Bethany House

*Why I Stayed, The choices I made in my darkest hour*, Gayle Haggard, with Angela Hunt, 2010, Tyndale House

I included this book, because it gives a valuable insight on how a pastor can fall from grace, and then repent, but then having to deal with a judgmental church leadership. What makes this book insightful is that it is written by Ted Haggard's wife, and therefore I believe lacks any self-justification of any kind, which might appear in a book by Ted himself. I believe that this is the most accurate description of the events, and gives me the confidence that even when a pastor falls like this, there is forgiveness and restoration.

*Setting Your Church Free*, Neil T Anderson & Charles Mylander, 1994. Regal

*Toxic Faith*, Stephen Arterburn & Jack Felton, 1991, Shaw Books

*Twisted Scriptures, A path to freedom from abusive churches*, Mary Alice Chrnalogar, 1997, Whitaker House

### **Intercessory Prayer:**

These are just three books that exclusively deal with intercessory prayer, but they contain all the principles and teaching that you will need to have a good

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understanding of it and how to pray effectively to see things happen in your church, family and friends. Also, there are some very good points on how to use intercessory prayer in spiritual warfare.

*Informed Intercession*, George Otis, Jr, 1999, Renew

*Intercessory Prayer*, Dutch Sheets, 1996, Regal

*The Happy Intercessor*, Beni Johnson, 2009, Destiny Image

*Read also:*

### A New Look At The Baptism In The Holy Spirit, Tongues And Prophecy Do You Know Where You Stand With Christ? Why Do You Go To Church?

By Paul Christensen

Available from the author,  
Email Paul90@slingshot.co.nz

*Also marketed through:*

*The Gospel Faith Messenger*

Founder: Rodney Francis

For more articles on the Holy Spirit and His ways, please feel free to contact Paul, or The GFM Ministry

*To be placed on the E-Mailing List of The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry, to receive their monthly "Prayer Support Letter" and "Barnabas Bulletin" as well as the less frequent "Faith Messages"; and/or to receive the first Lesson of the "St John's Gospel" free Bible Correspondence Court Lesson (in either King James Version or New International Version of the Bible – please state your preference), please send your name and address, plus E-Mail address, to:*

"The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry

P.O Box 57,

Paraparaumu 5254,

NEW ZEALAND.

Telephone: 0064 4 904 0727

Facsimile: 0064 4 904 0726

E-Mail: [gfm@gospel.org.nz](mailto:gfm@gospel.org.nz)

**Visit their Website: [www.Gospel.org.nz](http://www.Gospel.org.nz)**