

## Prophetic Insight

April 11, 2017

- **Many in Christianity refuse to believe the biblical fact that demons are real. So these unclean spirits are able to readily deceive people that they *don't need the LORDship of Jesus in their life, nor do they need transforming renewal by the Holy Spirit.***

Here's an essential truth for today. The Newer Testament writers weren't writing to people who merely called themselves "Christian." Rather, they were addressing those who lived however imperfectly with Jesus as LORD of their lives — a relationship which interlaced *extending His love and obeying His commands* (John 14:21; 15:10; 1John 5:2,3).

Also, those who penned the Newer Testament had no doubt that Satan and his demonic hoards were on earth to deceive and torment humanity (Matthew 13:38,39; Mark 4:15; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-9). That knowledge wasn't just an intellectual fact to them. These men had experienced the power and authority of Jesus' Name over the devil and his devious workers (see Mark 1:34; Matthew 10:8; Luke 10:17).

But over the centuries Christendom became scholarly, heedless of Satan's work in the world. Ecclesiastical leaders relegated to the *realm of superstition* the enemy and his demonic forces in deceiving and enslaving the minds of people, even Christians who cling to areas of darkness in their soul (see Acts 5:3; Acts 26:18). How far astray this stunted view of spiritual warfare has led believers! The gospel writers bore witness to the *authority of Jesus' Name*, the authority and power He gave His followers for all time to cast out Satan and his devils:

*"And these signs will accompany those who [trust Me]: In My Name they will drive out demons..."* (Mark 16:17).

This scheme of the enemy to work undetected among Christians has sorely impeded the extension of our Lord's Kingdom on earth by *all* His followers. A devilish strategy agitated Christians into disputing one another over the centuries through opposing creeds and religious practices — 38,000 different denominations and sects now! These have become firmly established because no one discerned the enemy's divisive work engendered by strongholds that weren't demolished or by wounds between factions which festered within toxic memories.

The net result? Theologians directed the course of Christianity through belief systems which separated the LORDship of Jesus and agreeing to biblical truths — in other words, a mental acknowledgement of the Person and work of Jesus without the accompanying submission to His Lordship and His Spirit-empowered transformational work in their hearts and character. If that weren't enough departure from Scripture, they also added unbiblical creedal systems and religious practices adapted from pagans.

- How would others, including unbelievers, recognize that Jesus is LORD in your life?
- If you don't believe that demons exist, then you've already discarded the authenticity of God's Word. If you do believe that demonic spirits still operate today as Scripture cites, how have you seen these entities opposing your walk and life with Jesus as your LORD?
- If you belong to a faith community, what evidence could you give to Jesus that they teach the same *way of life* from the Word as He would?
- **Deceived that you can go on in life without your mind being transformed by the Spirit.**  
Centuries of error that comes from

preaching the Bible *without* freeing people from demonic strongholds leaves them vulnerable. They pour new “Christian” information into minds which are still controlled or agitated by demonic influence. But if you’re purposing to live with Jesus as your LORD, you can’t just add Bible-based information to toxic memory trees in your brain. *Transformation into newness* by the Spirit is essential!

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [We] are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit” (2Corinthians 3:17,18).

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

Your mind needs to experience *both* HEALED and NEW memory trees: old

branches that are *healed of past pain*, and *new memory trees* that are formed out of your loving service to your Lord as His *doulos* and *diakonos* servant/slaves. (See diagrams below and next page.) This process is the true meaning of RENEWAL of your mind — being *made new* by His Spirit in you so you’re *different* than in the past.

If you diligently seek from Father healed memories and motives as well as new memory trees created by His indwelling Spirit, then you’ll readily grasp your paramount need for Jesus to BE your Lord. You’ll also see clearly the depth of relational responsibility He requires of you by grace as His beloved and obedient brother or sister.

A sign that you *are* being transformed by the Spirit in you is a *recognizable shift in your motives*. You’ll evidence increased trust in Him, and also a determined willingness to receive input and correction from those seeking to be transformed with you.

1. Religious leaders neither fully trust *all* of the Bible nor the timeless *authority over demons* our Lord Jesus gave all of His own.



**Undelivered Mind**

“If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?” (Luke 11:18).

The strongholds which have influenced so many religious leaders and their congregants over the centuries have given rise to 38,000+ competing divisions which undermine the Kingdom our Lord wants to establish. Christianity is divided, not Satan! Tragically, “Christians” who are being influenced by any form of demonic deception are the hardest to convince that they may be living with **habitual mental deceit**.

2. Those who’ve been delivered are still deceived by not heeding Jesus’ warning to *stay free*.



“And the final condition of that man is worse than the first” (see Luke 11:24-26).

Even if you’ve been delivered from demonic influence, the toxic memories that remain in your brain cooperate with your sin nature to induce you to sin. Your skewed and tainted memory trees keep you from the transformation you need so you may have the mind of Christ (1Corinthians 2:16). If you continue to live with the deceit of toxic memories and **habitual mental deceit** influencing your mind, you’ll deafen yourself to the Holy Spirit and redevelop demonic strongholds all over again. Only this time you’ll be much worse off, just as Jesus warns.

• Deceived that God is *against* you when you face trouble or trials.

We’ve often met Christians who are experiencing trials and suffering, and many ask, “**What has God got against me?**” You may be tempted to think this way but the problem comes when you let **habitual mental deceit** keep you questioning. Others who are habitually deceived in their minds may ask, “**Why does a loving God let this happen?**”

A lot of the doubt and questioning in western Christendom comes from the influence

***“Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”*** (2Corinthians 10:5).

Diligently taking captive your unChrist-like thoughts and asking His Spirit to help you think like our Lord is non-optional if you want the pain of your toxic memories healed. It’s also imperative that you have others in your life who personally care for you and want to live with Jesus as their Lord. You need them to also confront you when they detect any unChrist-like thoughts or motives. To accept their input and correction is a clear sign that you have the humility you need to be transformed and conformed to Jesus.

As you live guided by His indwelling Spirit, you’ll develop new memory trees created as the Holy Spirit works in your mind through your spirit. These new memory trees are rooted in the aroma of Jesus. Together the new and healed memory trees reveal a renewed and transformed mind that readily serves Jesus as Lord.



of Hellenism over the centuries. Derived from the worldview of the ancient Greeks, **Hellenism** and its offspring **Humanism** put humans at the center of their world. God is either disdained or relegated to the periphery of a person’s life. Nor do His moral standards have any role in mainstream practice or daily living. **What makes ME happy is all that matters.**

Hellenism and Humanism predominate both western thought and education today, as well as being the principal thought pattern of western Christianity. But this style of thinking is a direct affront on God’s character. It’s not a sin against other people, but against God Himself!

### **Father Helps You Become More Like His Son Jesus**

Consider that God’s Word tells us His purpose and His goals in the lives of those who do belong to Jesus:

*“In this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** These have come so that **your faith**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—**may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.** Though you have not seen*

*[Jesus], you love [Jesus]; and even though you do not see [Jesus] now, you trust in [Jesus] and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls”* (1Peter 1:6-9).

In societies dominated by Communists, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists, those who suffer for their trust in Jesus have fully embraced the truths outlined by Peter. It’s only within Hellenized, western Christendom, which is deceived by **false expectations** and **presumption**, that Father is misperceived as a cosmic vendor doting on His children so they can be happy. The misled can’t believe that He uses suffering to prove our faith.

*“For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out ‘Abba!’ (that is, ‘Dear Father!’). The Spirit Himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God; **and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah—provided we are suffering with [Jesus]** in order also to be glorified with [Jesus]”* (Romans 8:15-17, JNT).

No one enjoys suffering. But along



with the privilege of becoming our Father's child comes suffering with Jesus.

**This one truth separates those who falsely consider themselves Father's children, and those who truly are His. Trials and suffering are a part of our Father's refining process and His way to reveal the genuine trust of His children to others!**

His Son Jesus suffered. Should our Father treat His children any differently by withholding that which helps to conform us to His Son's image?

*"In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for Whom and through Whom everything exists, should make the Author of their salvation perfect through suffering"* (Hebrews 2:10).

Within Hellenized Christendom the thought of **genuineness of faith** never enters the minds of those dominated by **habitual mental deceit**. Many voice their doubt that a loving Father would use suffering. A large portion of Hellenized Christendom erroneously believes that the suffering of Jesus rules out us suffering even though Father explains why it's essential in our pilgrimage journey:

*"We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us"* (Romans 5:3-5).

The hope spoken of here isn't wishful thinking. Rather, this hope is the lifeline that keeps us focused on the narrow gate and a heavenly welcome. Satan offers us pleasure, then despair. Our Father offers us suffering, then hope — the confidence of His love for us.

Even though Job's wife wanted him to curse God and die (Job 2:9), he under-

stood that God uses Satan (Job 1:6-12) to reveal a trust in God that's genuine:

*"Those who suffer He delivers in their suffering; He speaks to them in their affliction"* (Job 36:15).

It'd be so simple if we could just bask in our Father's care here on earth and then be zapped into heaven before any trials come our way. However, that notion doesn't fly scripturally, nor does it bring honor to the Father Who sustains our brothers and sisters in persecuted lands during harsh torture and the loss of all things for the sake of Christ.

Please check if you have an aversion to our Father using suffering in *your* life through **habitual mental deceit**:

- How do you view suffering as Father's instrument of refining you into the character of Jesus?
- Can you cite past examples where He was using suffering to refine you or someone close to you in the faith, and you misunderstood His goal?
- Can you recall past examples of Christ-like character now present in you in which Father used suffering to produce them?
- How often do you pray for our suffering family in Jesus who are being persecuted around the world? When did you last share your own resources with organizations that help meet their needs and bring them comfort and encouragement?
- **When You're Suffering, Don't Listen To Satan's False Accusations.**

*"For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down"* (Revelation 12:10).

Satan never stops hurling accusations against Jesus' own. If you're currently being assailed with an accusation, first check to see if he's exposing a sin of

which you need to repent. If so, repent. If you've already repented and been forgiven, then don't listen! Too many listen to the "**false guilt**" of the enemy's accusations and become demoralized about themselves, then doubt Father's love for them.

**False guilt** arises when a sin you've confessed, repented of and been cleansed from (1John 1:9) has been forgiven and forgotten by Father — and the devil reminds you of that sin and its ugliness and you keep listening. This only opens the door in your mind for **habitual mental deceit**. So take that thought/accusation captive and claim the forgiveness and loving restoration you have in the Name of your LORD Jesus!