

From Darkness to Light

Key Verses:

John 12:46 – *I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*

Ephesians 5:8 – *...for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.*

The Objective:

Even though we have been born again, there may be areas in our lives that are grieving the Holy Spirit and giving Satan a legal opportunity in which he can operate against us. In this lesson, we will learn how to overcome the enemy and live in victory over darkness.

1) Darkness Versus Light

a) What is darkness?

- i. “Darkness” in the Scripture refers to the world of _____.

John 3:19b – *... people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

- ii. “Darkness” is the realm of _____ that dominates in the world through rebellion and unbelief.

Colossians 1:13 – *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...*

b) What is light?

- i. Light is the “_____.”

John 1:4 – *In him was life, and the life was the light of men...*

- ii. With a new sanctified heart and a fresh start, Christ has given us the power to _____ in a new life filled with _____.

John 8:12 – Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

2) Overcoming Darkness

- a) Understand: Satan will seek to _____ of your life.

- i. Jesus reveals how the enemy operates.

Matthew 12:43-45 – When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. v.44 Then it says, “I will return to my house from which I came.” And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. v.45 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.

- ii. The enemy will return seeking an opportunity to exert his dark influence, even with born again Christians.

- b) Controversial Question: Can a Christian be demon-possessed?

- i. Answer: No, Satan cannot truly possess anything but his own kingdom of fallen spirits and/or sinners under his control. However, true believers can find themselves under a powerful, and sometimes, controlling influence of a demonic spirit. Such influence can range from mild to severe.
- ii. Warnings in the New Testament that Christians can become partly bound or controlled by Satan are very clear.

Note the following scriptures:

(1) 1 Timothy 3:7 – Moreover, he (an elder) must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

(2) 1 Timothy 4:1 – *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...*

(3) Ephesians 4:26, 27 – *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, v.27 and give no opportunity to the devil.*

3) Three Realms the Enemy is Operating Against Us

1 Peter 5:8 – *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

a) _____ Bondages

These are patterns of addictions, habits, criminal activity, divorce, and many other dark things that have moved through your family line for decades. Through the blood of Jesus, you have been set free from the power of that sin, but you need to enforce your freedom by renouncing the power of any specific generational bondages. (See Exodus 20:5, 6 and Jeremiah 14:20.)

b) Personal _____ and Willful _____

1 Samuel 15:23 NKJV – *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...*

i. We have a number of examples in the Old and New Testaments of how rebellion and willful disobedience either brought God's followers into bondage or kept them from moving into the blessed life.

(1) King Saul was anointed, but through his rebellion, he lost his position and an evil spirit gained access to torment him continually (1 Samuel 16:14, 15).

(2) Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:3 – *But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"*

(3) Idle Young Women

1 Timothy 5:15 CEV – *Look what's already happened to some of the young widows! They have turned away to follow Satan.*

ii. Hebrews 3 warns us of the unfortunate end of an entire generation who rebelled in the wilderness.

(1) In essence, they were tormented by an evil heart of unbelief and never entered into their rest.

(2) Hebrews 3:7, 8, 11, 12 – *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, v.8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness... v.11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" v.12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

The result of rebellion is the _____ of heart.

c) Ungodly _____

A soul tie is an unholy joining between you and someone else. It usually involves a deep emotional dependency and/or some kind of current or previous sexual relationship.

This kind of unholy relationship becomes an open door where the enemy will often gain a demonic stronghold.

Examples of Godly and Ungodly Souls Ties in the Bible

i. Godly Soul Ties

(1) Joined to the _____: 1 Corinthians 6:17 – *But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.*

(2) Joined to a _____: Ephesians 5:31 – *Therefore a man shall leave*

his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

(3) Joined to a _____: David and Jonathon, 1 Samuel, 18:1 – *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

ii. Ungodly Soul Ties

(1) Joined to _____: 2 Corinthians 6:14 – *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

(2) Joined to an _____ Person: 1 Corinthians 6:16 – *Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, 'The two will become one flesh.'*

4) Five Powerful Steps moving us from Darkness to Light

Romans 13:12 – *The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*

a) _____ – Find out where the enemy has snared you and ask the Lord to forgive you for giving in to this suggestion or the temptation to gratify your flesh or contaminate and confuse you with unbelief.

b) _____ – Turn from that pattern of sin. Make a declaration to your God and the enemy that you will no longer give in to this power of darkness. Make yourself accountable to your discipleship coach and give them an opportunity to pray with you.

James 5:16a – *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed...*

c) _____ – Command the enemy to let go of your mind and actions. Continue this as often as the temptation or the troubling thoughts arise. Use the authority of Jesus' Name!

- d) _____ – Find some Scriptures to renew your mind and beliefs about how you have been stumbling.

Romans 12:2a – *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...*

- e) _____ – Obey what you read. Ask the Lord to speak to you about what you have read in His word and He will show you how it applies to your life. Do the next right thing!

2 Corinthians 10:5 – *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...*

REFLECT

1. How is your daily walk in the light of Christ dispelling darkness in you and others?
2. Which one of the five steps to freedom is the Holy Spirit convicting you of right now?
3. Explain how you are or can be free from generational bondage.
4. Is there an area or two in your life that you struggle with rebellion or willful disobedience?
5. Can you think of any lingering ungodly soul ties in your life that need to be severed?

ACT

Using the five steps to freedom, take one issue you are currently struggling with through the process in a verbal or written prayer alone or with a trusted friend.