

Accusations



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We read in Revelation 12:10-11: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night, And they overcame him by the *blood of the Lamb*, and by the *word of their testimony*; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

In this Scripture we are informed that Satan is "*the accuser of our brethren*" and that he has been "*cast down.*" It would be well for each dear reader to remember that God calls Satan the accuser, for indeed he is the accuser. He will cause the honest Christians to doubt their experience of salvation, if they do not know how to overcome him, and defeat him.

It might be well to state here that Satan likes to pick on the tender, sensitive, obedient Christians as these always make the best Christians, and the best workers for God. If he can serve to discourage and harass them by making them doubt their experience, he can make them unhappy, and to a certain extent, unsuccessful.

The devil has successfully accused many dear, honest souls into believing they have sinned in some little way or other, when it is their whole desire to do the *complete will of God*, and they would not fail Him willfully for anything. Things, which do not bother the average Christian, will trouble those who are subject to the accusing powers of the devil, making them miserable indeed.

Some of the things the devil uses to discourage, accuse, and confuse the dear Christian are of times foolish and unreasonable, but nevertheless, this fact does not for

one moment lessen the awful fear and torment which are associated with accusations. Also, if Satan cannot accuse the dear Christian by telling him that he has sinned, he will then often tell him he never was saved in the first place.

There are no words descriptive enough to portray the awful fear and horror, and confusion and hopelessness of the dear person so accused, yet all the time the heart of this very person is crying out and yearning to do the whole will of God. Remember, dear friend, there is real hope for you. The Bible says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the *word of their testimony.*" There is victory!

Many have believed Satan's evil suggestions and have gone back time and time again trying to repent over and over to make sure of their experience with God, only to find that even this did not bring permanent victory.

Most Christians have experienced accusations to some extent in their Christian walk. Some have overcome readily, while others have had a real battle with the enemy of their souls. The devil will tell you that you are the only one who ever experienced such things but this is not true. In 1 Peter 5:9 we read that the same afflictions are accomplished in our brethren that are in the world. It is through accusations that the enemy steals away our peace and happiness in Jesus Christ. He knows he cannot get the sincere Christian to sin, so he tries in this way and in many other ways to defeat them.

SIN DEFINED

Sin is a known, willful, transgression against the Word, or the will, of God. Sin is the *only thing* that can separate us from God. As long as we have not committed willful sin, since we became Christians, we have a perfect right to testify that we are Christians.

If the devil cannot get a person cast down with accusations, he will always try other things. He will get some so interested in the affairs of this life that he will choke out their love for God. God must have first place in our lives if we please Him. Some people count their religion as a side line issue, only attended to in their spare time,

but God must come first and other things put on the side line where they rightfully belong. The devil succeeds in getting many to set their affections on earthly things such as their home, family, or car and God is not first as He should be. This must not be, if we want to be victorious Christians, and pleasing in the sight of God.

Let us deal here definitely with the Christian who is accused and harassed by the enemy of his soul, whose happiness is not as it once was. Satan is the enemy of our souls, and it makes no difference to him how he steals away our happiness, just so he succeeds in so doing. In 1 Peter 5:8 we read, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The devil becomes roaring mad every time a soul is translated out of his kingdom into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Therefore, he will not rest so long as there is an opportunity to seize upon the Christian and take him as his prey. Nevertheless, thank God for His written, eternal, and unfailing promises which tell us that greater is He, Christ, that is in you than he, Satan, that is in the world.

The power of the devil, matched with the power of Christ becomes very weak indeed. Christ is our Redeemer, our buckler, and our strong and high tower. By trusting in Him, we are safe from every power of the enemy. In Proverbs 18:10 we read, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." What a glorious promise for the troubled Christian! It is good for us to remember that the devil flees at the mentioning of the name of Christ, and it is your privilege as a Christian to rebuke him in the name of the Lord.

CAUSE FOR ACCUSATIONS

What is the true cause for accusations? They are purposed to defeat the Christian entirely, or at least to steal away his joy and peace and freedom in Jesus Christ. People bothered with accusations are not free people. I have seen people so harassed and bound by the accusing powers of Satan that they are no longer free as Christ intended for them to be. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). However, the accused are bound under the yoke of the devil, and truly it is a galling yoke. I have seen some people who were afraid to talk for fear they would tell a lie, then to experience Satan's coming and accusing them for it. This is not freedom, neither is it becoming to the Gospel of Christ. The Scriptures tell us in Philippians 1:27, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ." Most generally we refer this Scripture to loose living or loose conversation, but extremes either way are hindering to the gospel of Christ.

IMPRESSIONS

I have seen others bothered with compelling impressions that they felt they just had to obey or the devil would accuse them over it. *This is not freedom.*

Impressions most generally come from three sources—from God, from one's self, and from the devil. Impressions that come from God are clear and easily understood. If they come with confusion, fear, or uncertainty, *they are certainly from the devil.* The devil does not care what tactics he uses, if he can only harass and trouble the Christian. This is his delight. People have sometimes obeyed impressions from Satan that did not glorify God at all, because they did it with such fear and distress that people of the world did not understand why they did it.

It would be good for us to remember that we serve God because we want to, and not because we have to. Jesus said, "If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments." The true Christian enjoys doing the will of God because he loves Him above everything else. The Spirit of God is not a compelling Spirit! He only compels us by love. We please God because we want to please Him.

Compelling impressions that come with an ugly, confusing feeling are from Satan, himself. God's will is sweet and comes with an assurance of grace for any task He would have us perform. Someone might ask, "Why would Satan impress someone to do something that could be good?" The answer is, it is a trap, for without grace and divine direction you could never do it. You see, if you are impressed to do something, and you are in question about it, and do not do it, then the devil can use that to accuse you. Or if you do go ahead and do the thing in question, you do it in your own strength, and it is not done right and is not glorifying to God.

I want to say here, for the encouragement of every dear, accused soul, that I have experienced the worst in accusations. I have experienced all these things and more, in my early Christian life, and I know whereof I speak. Surely accused people who are suffering under accusations are miserable creatures, and because they are miserable, the devil suggests this as proof that they are not saved. Remember that he is a liar and the father of it!

Dear Christian, the moment you listen to his reasoning, and begin to doubt your experience with God, the joy and peace go out of your heart. You are still a Christian, but not a happy one as God intended for you to be. Doubts and faith cannot dwell together, so the moment we entertain doubts, faith flees away; and when faith goes

our joy and peace go, for joy and peace come by believing. When we were first saved, we found real joy and peace because we believed we were saved, and we must keep on believing we are saved to keep the joy and peace in our hearts.

Paul said, "For by faith ye stand." Satan brings accusations for the express purpose of tearing down our faith. It is the overconscientious Christian whom he troubles most. I say again, it makes no difference to Satan how he gets us down, just so he gets the job done. Some Christians are not conscientious enough while others are entirely too conscientious. The devil will attack at either side of the road, and there is a ditch on each side, so let us move over from the edge, where there is peace and safety.

ACCUSATIONS OR CONDEMNATION?

Many people mistake accusations for condemnation and condemnation for accusations. I have heard some people say they felt condemned, when it was nothing but the accusing powers of the devil for they had done nothing wrong. Then, I have heard others say the devil was accusing them when really God was dealing with their hearts over some matter that was displeasing Him. You may say, "How can I know the difference?" Let me encourage you, dear one, there is a way. Even as John told us to try the spirits of the false prophets, so we, as Christians, must try the spirits that come to us.

God's Spirit works in a clear, definite, uplifting way, while the spirit of Satan comes in a down casting, confusing, questioning, depressing way. The pull of God's Spirit is upward. The pull of Satan's is downward. Any spirit that makes you feel downcast and depressed is not of God! Any spirit that confuses you is not of God! "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace . . ." (1 Corinthians 14:33).

If God points out something in your life that you are doing to displease Him, you can know readily and clearly what it is, and every true Christian will be obedient to the voice of God. However, when you begin to feel bad in your heart, finding yourself confused as to what it is all about, and the more you think of it, the more confused you become, it is a sure sign a spirit of Satan is speaking to you. When this happens you should refuse to listen to it, refuse to entertain it as you would refuse an enemy from your home, that would steal away your family and possessions. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you!" I repeat again, any spirit that comes to you in a depressing way is not God's Spirit. God's Spirit never depresses. Depression is always of the devil.

God's Spirit does not discourage, but encourages us to move up and overcome in the name of the Lord.

DEFEATING DEPRESSING SPIRITS

Depressing and confusing spirits must be resisted steadfastly or they will tear down our faith and ruin our happiness as Christians. The devil will succeed in depressing us, then he will suggest that certainly we must be devil-possessed or we would not feel like we do. I believe that the devil suggests to every accused soul that they are devil-possessed. Then he will bring all kinds of thoughts and feelings to prove his point. This only adds to their misery. Truly, a person suffering under accusations is not to be condemned, but helped out of their difficulty, although they can do more to help themselves than anyone else can do for them. Prayer and laying on of hands and rebuking the devil is always a great help, but unless the individual, himself, takes hold of the promises of God and believes God in spite of all feelings, it will be only of temporary help.

I say again, having experienced accusations myself and gaining victory over them after a long struggle, when my Christian life seemed hopeless and Satan suggested I never would get victory and that God had turned His face from me, victory was just out ahead.

There is victory for every accused soul *if you take the remedy!* It might seem like a bitter pill, and may take a lot of effort to swallow it, but it is a sure cure. It is as simple as this: believe God in spite of feelings. Find a promise or two or three from God's eternal, unfailing Word, such as 1 John 3:14, which says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren," or 1 John 3:24, which says, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him and he in him." Another good Scripture is 1 John 3:7. It reads, "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." (Other good Scriptures are John 5:24; John 14:23; John 15:10-14; Matthew 12:49, 50; Philippians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:7.)

You must stand upon the promises of God and claim your salvation upon the eternal authority of God's written, infallible, unfailing Word, *regardless of how you feel* and victory is sure to come. A person who has suffered under accusations very long is low in faith, for Satan has succeeded in getting you to let down your shield of faith and now his fiery darts have been striking you instead of hitting the shield of faith. So, lift it up again, dear Sister or Brother, and the darts will glance off into the air instead of hitting you.

If the devil has torn down your faith little by little, you cannot expect to gain it all back at once, but you can climb back up faster and faster. If you are patient and persistent in your believing, you will soon be above the stormy clouds of doubt and despair.

MY EXPERIENCE

How well I remember the day when I looked up into the face of God and told Him, by His grace and help, I would claim my experience regardless of feelings until I saw Him face to face, knowing I had met the conditions of His unfailing Word to the best of my knowledge and ability. Thank God, I am still claiming it today!

When I made that promise to God, it was a hard thing to do, for I had before this made a new start again and again, not feeling safe in my experience, although I was doing my best to serve God, yet repenting or trying to repent when there was nothing to repent of. I would feel relieved each time, only to fall back into my gloom of unbelief again. However, when I promised God I would cease starting over and over again and claim it once and for all, the *victory was mine!* Oh, I did not have any great good feeling just then, but great peace flooded my soul. I had only cleared out the thing that was hindering.

I am glad to say, that same peace is mine today. Many times since then the devil has attempted to trouble me again, but by the resisting of him and leaving my experience committed into the hands of God, I have always overcome.

As time went on, my trouble with accusations was left farther and farther behind in my life, and today victory is mine, full and free! Praise God!

Friend, you can have victory too, but remember, you will never receive it by proving your experience of salvation by your feelings, but if you accept your salvation by faith, the feelings are sure to come sooner or later.

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