



**Satan's Deadly Trap – Part 6**  
**Various Scripture**  
**GCSP – 10/24/2009**

Let's pray.

Oftentimes as I have listened to sermons I have been inspired, thrilled, convicted, and a whole basketful of other emotions. I heard what the preacher had to say and I knew changes were needed in my life. Unfortunately, more often than not, I also walked away not really sure how to go about those changes. The preacher did a good job of communicating the problem and the desperate need to make changes, but not so much how to fix the problem or make those changes. There was a gap between the interpretation and explanation portion of the sermon and the application portion.

I am sure I have been guilty of this on many occasions as well. And now being on the other side of the pulpit I can see how easily this can happen; because I now understand that when I preach a message, you hear that message differently than everyone else in the congregation. Whether I am preaching to 30 people or 3,000 people, the message will be heard in that many different ways; and it is quite possible that none of the ways you hear it was what my intentions were.

And let me assure you this is not a complaint. Let me elaborate a little more before I make my primary point in this introduction.

There are three main issues at work in how you receive a sermon, and thus are able to receive the proper application. The first one I have alluded to but haven't stated: Sometimes the preacher is just not an effective communicator. Just because a man stands in the pulpit doesn't mean he was called by God to be there. There also comes a time when the mind is not as sharp as it once was and physically speaking the preacher has lost a step or two and can no longer present a sermon in a way that most people can easily follow. One of my favorite preachers, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones reached this point in his ministry and gave up the pulpit to devote the rest of his time on this earth to writing and editing his previous sermons for the printed page – which I and multitudes of others are thankful for.

The second issue is that you don't always come prepared to hear a sermon. You either have far too many concerns on your mind and heart, or your relationships are a mess and you're still dwelling on your last encounter or argument, or there is sin in your life and you really aren't here in a spiritual way. You are spiritually sick and thus are not hungry for the Word of God. Just like when you are physically sick you have no appetite for food, when you are spiritually sick you will have no appetite for God.

The third issue, and hopefully this applies to all of you tonight, is that the Holy Spirit is at work within you, and He will be exploding certain principles inside of you that you need at this very moment; and sometimes what the Spirit explodes within you has absolutely nothing to do with what I am preaching.

Some of you take notes during the sermon. Sometimes you are simply jotting down the Scripture reference or the bullet points I occasionally put up on the screen. But sometimes I catch your eyes popping out of your head and you feverishly writing down something out of the blue so to speak. That's the Holy Spirit exploding something inside you; and it may or may not have been something I deemed as very important in the preparation and delivery of the sermon.

All of that being said, I do not want to be guilty of pounding away at the fact that you must let go of the offences in your life, and to not take offence now and in the future, without at least attempting to give you some solid practices to follow to help you make this important and somewhat drastic change in your life.

Allow me to briefly review some of the important principles we have learned thus far before I attempt to make this application.

This sermon series is based on **Luke 17:1a** where Jesus says, "**It is impossible that no offences should come**" (NKJV). We have seen that offences handled improperly will lead to betrayal, hatred, and deception. You will be in "**the snare of the devil**" and you will be "**held captive by him to do his will**" according to **2 Timothy 2:26**.

I have repeatedly given you the illustration of how monkeys will not let go of the banana even when their lives are in danger, and how that relates to the way we hang onto offences and refuse to forgive those who have done us wrong.

I showed you how un-relinquished offences are strongholds, or fortresses, in your mind; and that these strongholds are for Satan's use in your life.

We then looked at some passages of application that taught us how to deal with the offences in our lives. We saw in **Romans 12:14-21** and **Luke 6:27-36** that we must love and bless and pray for those who have offended us and persecuted us.

We briefly looked at the life of Cain in **Genesis 4:3-14** and how the progression of offence, betrayal, hatred, and deception is set into motion. We saw how Cain develops a persecution complex, living under the belief that everyone is now out to get him; and how Cain becomes a vagrant and a wanderer because of this persecution complex.

The application being that people who hold onto offences are spiritual vagabonds. They wander from relationship to relationship, or from job to job, or from church to church.

Last week we saw the difference between two Greek words that are translated as sons or children in the New Testament; one is *teknon* and the other is *huios*. We saw that *teknon* primarily referred to a child by birth only, meaning an immature Christian in our application; and that *huios* referred to a child who looked like and acted like the father, who had the characteristics of the father; which meant a mature Christian in our application.

Immature Christians will most often react to their circumstances by leaning on, or being led by, their emotions and their intellect. Mature Christians will rely on God the Father to accomplish all things in His perfect way and timing.

We saw in **Matthew 5:44-45a**, when Jesus says, “**But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven...**” that the Greek word *huios* which implicitly shows us that when we hang onto offences we are proving we are immature, or *teknon*, sons or daughters.

I then spent the rest of time together taking you through several passages in **1 Peter** that told us beyond any doubt that when we properly handle offences we will receive blessings from God. Every offence that comes into our lives is an opportunity for bitterness or blessing, and God leaves the choice to us.

After the service last week, someone was commenting on the sermon. I used an illustration, if you will excuse the image it creates in your mind, of every time an offence comes into our lives it is like having the choice of a new car or a pile of horse manure – and we almost always choose the manure! And I am not saying that God promises you a new car when you properly handle offence.

But how easy is it for us to take offence? As I was typing that last paragraph God showed me how easily I take offence. When I am preparing a sermon I really dislike interruptions. My desk has to be clear, other than my Bible and any resource materials I am using, I have instrumental music playing softly in the background, and my mind is focused. I sometimes even have to close the door because even hearing Connie walking from room to room effects my concentration. Interruptions break my train of thought and it usually takes me several minutes to regain where I was – sometimes I have lose what I was thinking about altogether.

I also intensely dislike telemarketing calls. And you guessed it; the phone rang with a toll-free number on the caller id while I was typing that last paragraph. I felt the blood rushing to my face and tightness in my neck at the intrusion into my study time. I was offended in an instant by someone I don't even know and didn't even talk to.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Isaiah**.

### **Isaiah 28:16**

Through Isaiah, God was telling Judah that He was going to bring His Son into the world to be the foundation and the cornerstone of His future church – meaning us. Jesus Christ, God's Word in human form, would be the foundation of the church and of our lives. And while an entire sermon could be built on this thought, I want us to focus in on the last phrase of this verse: “**He who believes in it will not be disturbed.**”

Literally that means, he who believes in Jesus Christ, in God's living Word, will not be disturbed, will not be in a hurry, or will not act hastily. In application to our study it is saying that he who believes in God's Word will not rush into an offence. Why? – because if you genuinely believe in Jesus Christ, if you genuinely believe in the Word of God, you will fully understand that nothing can harm you and that God will take care of things in His time and in His way if we resist taking matters into our own hands.

So what then does it mean to genuinely believe the Word of God? Don't all Christians genuinely believe the Word of God?

Let me give a Biblical illustration of what I mean.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel of **Matthew**.

### **Matthew 16:13-18**

Jesus and His disciples are entering Caesarea Philippi and the Lord asks a simple question: "**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**" How many of you know that when Jesus asks a question He already knows the answer? Well, the disciples all chime in with the various things they have heard in their journeys with Jesus over the last year or so: "**Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.**" Although the text doesn't reveal this to us, I would imagine that every one of them had something to say in this regard.

Then Jesus asks, "**But who do you say that I am?**" Simon Peter immediately jumps in and declares, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

And here is the most important aspect of this conversation and the point I want us to grasp: "And Jesus said to him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**"

Jesus explains to Peter and to the rest of His disciples that the source of this knowledge was God. This knowledge was revealed to Peter by God, not by listening to others or even by hanging with Jesus, it was God Himself who revealed this knowledge to Peter.

I talked earlier about being hungry for God and His Word; this was Peter. Peter was always asking questions and always jumping into the middle of things. It was Peter who in the middle of a violent storm stepped out of the boat and walked on water. It was Peter who jumped up and told Jesus that he would die for Him rather than leave. It was Peter who wanted to build a memorial on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter didn't settle for man's opinion he wanted to hear it from God.

Out of this hunger came revealed knowledge. God gave Peter the gift of an illuminated heart and mind in response to his hunger.

Hold your place in Matthew and turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **1 John**.

### **1 John 2:27**

What is the anointing John is talking about? He is talking about the anointing of the revealed Word of God in your life. When the Bible speaks of Jesus abiding in you and you abiding in Him it is in reference to the Word of God.

**John 1:1** says, "**In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.**" **John 1:14** says, "**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**" Jesus and the Word of God are one and the same.

The anointing you receive is in direct proportion to how much of God's Word abides in you; and when I speak of God's Word abiding in you I am not just talking about how much you can quote or how much you have read; I am talking about how much has been revealed to you and how much is living in you. I am talking about how often you have had those "Aha" moments when reading your Bible or when listening to a sermon or when reading a good Christian book that is expounding on Scripture and is confirmed in Scripture. That's the anointing John is talking about!

This is revealed knowledge and this is what Peter had when he proclaimed, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" And Peter had this anointing; this revealed knowledge, because he was hungry! Peter had a healthy spiritual appetite.

And back in **Matthew 16:18**, Jesus proclaims that "...**upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.**" Jesus is saying that upon the revealed knowledge of God's Word His church is going to be built. The foundation, the precious cornerstone of great price is the living Word of God as it is, or more correctly, as He is revealed to us; as we receive the anointing, the gift, of this revealed knowledge abiding within us.

Oh beloved if we could only grab hold of this truth; if we could fully understand the vital importance of knowing God in all of His fullness! If we could be so hungry for this anointing the Apostle John spoke of that we would be begging God to fill us with His Spirit and fill us with His revealed Word. If we would cry out to Him on a continual basis, completely yielded to His will and His bidding in our lives, we would receive this filling, this revelation knowledge, this anointing, and beloved in this state, in this condition, no offence has a snowball's chance in hell to harm you!

Praise God He gives us absolutely everything we need to handle anything we face or will face in this life!

Oh but so many Christians are immature in their faith; they have little or no revealed knowledge in their heart but only have head knowledge. They are like the seed in **Mark 4:16-17** that falls upon the rocky ground; they receive God's Word with joy but the moment offences and persecution come upon them they fall away because they have no root or foundation to stabilize them; they have no revealed knowledge or anointing of God's Word in their hearts to hold on to.

Most Christians are living their lives based on what they have heard others say and preach. That's head knowledge, that's not revealed knowledge. They have never confirmed what they heard by personal study and by God's Holy Spirit revealing the truth or confirming the truth in their hearts. Their foundation is unsure and shifting with the sand.

And beloved this is the same unstable place you will be when you take your stand on a Scripture out of context – that too is not revealed knowledge or anointed knowledge and you are destined for a fall.

Jesus is building His church on revealed knowledge and if we try to build our lives on anything less we will not be protected from the gates of Hell prevailing upon us. The

promise of protection and the promise of being an overcomer against Satan and all his fiery darts and schemes are based upon the revealed knowledge of God's Word in our hearts, and nothing less. Do not be deceived – and remember, deception is one of the end results of hanging onto offences.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Ephesians**. I want to revisit something I wrote in one of newsletters several months ago that applies to what we are talking about here.

### **Ephesians 5:10-18**

We are all familiar with the armor of God, at least to some extent. What is the purpose of the armor? – It is repeated several times in this passage: **Verse 10** says, "**Be strong in the Lord**", **verse 11** says, "...so that you will be able to stand firm", **verse 13** says, "...so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm", and **verse 14** begins with, "**Stand firm.**"

Paul then lists the resources we have at our disposal to be able to stand firm against Satan, and in **verse 17** he talks about "**the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.**" The Greek word that is translated "**word**" in this verse is not *logos*, which is used to denote the written Word of God, but instead it is *rhema*, which most often refers to the spoken word. The point being is our primary weapon to fight against Satan is the spoken Word of God that resides within us, or if I may, our only way of sending the devil packing is based on how much revealed knowledge of God's Word we have for the Holy Spirit to use through us in the battles we face.

Let's look at one more passage before I wrap things up tonight. Turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel of **John**.

### **John 6:66-69**

Jesus purposely offends (and we will get into that next week) the multitudes of "disciples" who are following him and they walk away. When Jesus asks the Twelve if they want to walk away also, Peter, once again, speaks revealed knowledge: "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.**"

And please do not miss the progression in those words: "**We have believed and then we have come to know...**"

You cannot come to know God apart from belief. You cannot come to know God's Word apart from belief. You will never receive revealed knowledge, or the anointing as John calls it, apart from belief.

And beloved the primary problem with the church and with individual Christians is they do not believe! Oh sure, they believe some parts of the Bible but only that which they are comfortable with – but God does not allow for partial belief. You can't just believe in God's love but not His wrath. You can't just believe in heaven and not believe in hell. You can't just believe in Jesus as your Savior and not believe He is the Lord and Master of your life, of whom you must yield to at all times.

Do you want to be free from offence? Then believe. Believe God's Word cover to cover. Believe in the fullness of God. Believe in the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. Believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Believe that God is in control and that He will take care of every offence that comes into your life. Believe, and hunger for His Word and His Spirit and His working in your life.

Let's pray.