

EXPOSING YOUR UNSEEN ENEMY

We are ready for another lesson. How are you doing so far? Are you beginning to see the wall between you and God come down in the most amazing ways? You should be seeing that by now, if you have been watching all of these lessons. They are designed to set you free from the things that have bound you and held you back, destroyed you or tried to destroy you. Here you are in your future and you cannot seem to let go of them. Today we are going to dismantle a major part of the wall by allowing God to expose your unseen enemy.

Your unseen enemy! Can you see the devil? I know people that have had experiences that the devil has come to them, but usually you cannot see him. Pastor Cho in South Korea, pastor of the largest church in the world with almost one million members, said that one time God said "I want you to go to Japan and preach the Word." Pastor Cho said, "Lord, the Japanese tortured my parents. I don't want anything to do with them. I don't want to help them." God said, "I want you to go." One night he was asleep in his hospital room, and suddenly, in the middle of the night, Satan came and had blazing fiery eyes, full of hate, and he saw him. Pastor Cho said, "Here I am a pastor who is supposed to know how to speak the Word of God and be so powerful. I was so terrified that I could not move. I was paralyzed with fear."

Satan said, "If you go to Japan, I will kill you." Pastor Cho was so scared that all he could get out of his mouth was a very weak "Jesus", and the devil left. Can you see the power of the name of Jesus? Pastor Cho went on and did a great work in Japan. You do have authority over this unseen enemy. There are tools to help you deal with him, and to help you expose him.

Let me give you a scenario of the world today. I am going to try to put it all in there. I want to talk about what could be going wrong in someone's life and all of it could be happening at once. You have a pregnant daughter and she wants to get an abortion. You have a child on drugs and the drug dealer is another child. You have a husband hooked on pornography. There are suicide attempts at school that actually succeed. There is sexual abuse going on by a father or another person in the neighborhood, or in the community, who is an upstanding citizen. There is a strip joint in your neighborhood. The video store starts carrying DVD's of XXX movies and your children have access to them. The television starts 24 hour sex movies. Kids get involved in a satanic group and they are in extreme rebellion. Your neighbors are Satanists. Your friend divorces her abusive husband who is beating on her and moves in with an older woman who is a lesbian. Your best friend convinces your husband to leave you and marry her and he wants to do it. All of that sounds like a soap opera, doesn't it? Unfortunately, that is the kind of things going on in the world we live in today. Rampant sin. At times, there seems to be a situation going on in your life and you think, "No matter how hard I try I am not getting anywhere, God. It is not happening.

What's wrong? Why is it not changing? I am praying, but why is it not changing?" That is what we are going to talk about today. We are going to talk about that even though people have to make choices, and they make really bad choices, and even though they are doing really wrong things like the things I just named, there is an unseen enemy behind it. What we are going to determine today is how to help you recognize when it is the flesh and just people being rebelliously determined to do wrong, and when is it the devil. One thing I had to learn about inner healing and deliverance in my own life was that the devil has a way of attaching a demon, or assigning a demon, to an issue you are already struggling with. Here you are trying to deal with your flesh, trying to deal with your life, trying to deal with this world, and you cannot seem to get the victory. I want to tell you that there is a strong possibility that there is a demonic influence and that is what is wrong, and you will need to deal with that.

A very good friend of mine who has done a lot to help me in my ministry was at my house helping me with a computer issue. I said to him, "How are you doing now? I haven't talked to you in a long time." He said, "I am still so negative. I am so negative that I drive myself crazy, I drive my wife crazy. No matter what happens in life, I cannot seem to see the good side on it. I just seem to see the negative." I know the Lord prompted me to say, "Have you ever thought that that might be demonic?" He said, "I don't know." I told him, "I know someone I want you to call and go see. She has a really good deliverance ministry." I picked up the phone right then and called her and asked if she could see him. She said yes, and she talked to him. He hung up the phone and said, "You know, Betty, if you had not done that right on the spot, I wouldn't have done it. But, I am going." I talked to him later and asked how it was. He said, "It changed my life, Betty. She not only saw the source of the demonic in my life, she saw the root of what was causing

all of this.” That is what I am sharing with you today. I wish I could sit down with you individually and teach you this and pray with you individually, but I cannot. This is going all over the world to hundreds of countries. However, we are all the same. Human nature remains the same. We deal with the same issues. If you will take these nine lessons that fit in dismantling the wall between you God, take them seriously and pray over each one and not get in a hurry, you can walk free from your past. Just say, “Lord I want this out of my life. Pull this part of the wall down out of my life.” It can hurt so good, as I said in the very beginning. It can be painful. These are your pain issues. My heart goes out to you for the hurt that has been done to you and for the hurt that you have caused other people. God wants to set you free and put your past in your past where it belongs. Let your present be the present, and let the future be the future, and you can walk forward in confidence and with freedom.

A lot of people do not believe Satan is real. Once someone asked Billy Sunday, “Do you believe in the devil?” He said, “I know he is real. I have done business with him.” That is true. He is a real entity. He is very powerful, and has a kingdom set up that is very organized. Yet, who was he in the beginning? He was an angel. God and the devil are not equal; they are not even close to being equal. God laughs at the things the devil tries to do. God allows him to be on this earth and in this world for awhile, but He uses him for his own purposes. God always wins. Never think the devil wins. He might win a skirmish or two, but God wins the war, always. What did Satan do before he was cast out of heaven? Ephesians 2 says, “He is the prince of the power of the air.” You wonder why the media is corrupt, you wonder why movies are corrupt, you wonder why television is corrupt? He is the prince of all of that. He is the prince of the power of the air. That is the airwaves. Ezekiel 28:12 says, “You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until wickedness was found in you. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth. I made a spectacle of you before kings.” That is God talking. The next Scripture is out of Revelation, “This great dragon, the ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world, was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.” I want you to look at the quote by Billy Sunday again. He was asked if he thought the devil was real and he replied, “I know he is real; I have done business with him.” Look at what Billy Graham said once, “Don’t be afraid of the devil and his angels. One-third of them were kicked out of heaven, so we have them outnumbered two to one.” That is the truth. Besides that, God’s angels are so powerful. They fight under His authority. You fight the devil under the authority of God. How do I know that? Because Jesus said it, “I give you authority over all the power of the enemy.”

There is a part of this wall that is demonic, and a part of it is the flesh. I want to help you to be able to recognize them. The flesh is another way of saying your own choices, your own desires and your own decisions, taking place. The demonic is the work of the devil and his demons in the situation where he has set up principalities and powers and rulers of wickedness in high places, and they come against us. Why? Because God loves us. Do you want to know why the devil has come after you and will not let up? It is because God has a call on your life and he knows it. In the unseen world, the good angels and the bad angels fight over you. The bad angels say, “Look. What is going on? There is a bunch of them after that person. I am going to get over there and stop it before it ever starts.” That is what he tries to do. Once I heard that many of the people in prison were people who were called to preach and they rebelled against it in their flesh and the devil helped them do it. They are knocked out of the ballpark. You do not have to stay there. You never are out until your last breath is drawn. Nothing can stop the destiny God has for you. Nothing, except you and your choices, your flesh doing what it wants to do.

We have two extremes among Christians today. We have Christians who talk about the devil, over and over. They talk about him too much. They give him too much glory. For everything that goes wrong, they blame the devil. It could be the result of your own weaknesses and the result of your own choices. You need to learn to recognize that. Ask God, “Teach me to recognize that.” If it is the flesh, your desires, doing it, you cannot cast that out. You have to crucify it. God says, “Crucify your flesh. Die to everything.” If it is the demonic attacking you, then you have to cast it out. You cannot cast out the flesh and you cannot crucify a demon. You can cast out a demon and you can crucify the flesh. Any Christian can do it. You do not have to have a big deliverance ministry to do it. You can do it yourself. In the Bible, in Mark, it says, “In My name believers will cast out demons.” Are you a believer? Do you believe in everything God says? If you do, you have the power. It is not about you, it is about God and His power going through you. What is really important for you to do? Discipline your body. Paul, the greatest Christian besides Jesus, wrote most of the New Testament. He said, “I discipline my body constantly lest, after I preach to others, I become a castaway.” You have to always be aware. You never get too big that you do not have to watch out. In fact, when you get to thinking you are too big, that is when you can fall. Does God want you to have confidence in yourself? Yes, He does. He wants you to think, “I can do that. God wants me to do that.” But, you have to learn how to make that be in the proper place. You can do that.

What are you going to do in trying to decide and determine what is demonic? How about weight? “Betty, did you have to talk about that?” Many Christians that love God do not crucify their flesh and they stay

did you have to talk about that? Many Christians that love God do not crucify their flesh and they stay defeated about it. I have certainly struggled with my weight. I think I have been on a diet all my life. I go up and I go down. I would love to blame that on the devil, "Satan is really after me." One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is self-control. I read that recently and I thought, "Good grief. Your telling me I have to have self-control. How does that mean that the Holy Spirit will help me if He is in charge?" He helps you have self-control. He does help you but you have to do it. If you have authority over the demonic, how do you recognize it? First, you have to recognize where it came in. If this is the devil, how did I let him into my life? You can have it happen in ways that you did not even know it happened. For instance, you could have been involved in something extremely traumatic. Because you were vulnerable and because he hates you and he hates God and he wants to get at God by getting at you, he came in in an unguarded moment. Maybe you were a child involved in a car wreck. Some of you watching are in countries in war. You have had horrible trauma. The devil was there and involved in all of that while you were vulnerable. He put a spirit of fear in you and it paralyzed you. That would be an example of how the devil could come in and you do not even know when it happened. Another is by the choice of your will you got involved in satanic things. If you read Galatians, it says that witchcraft is a sin of the flesh. It is a fleshly thing. You say, "Oh no, I thought that was the devil." It is playing into the devil's hands, but you wanted to have power and control so you got involved in witchcraft. It could be anything from Ouija boards up, such as horoscopes, going to seances, going to see the fortune teller. You know that you wanted to know what was going to happen so you could figure out how to run your life. God says, "Do not do it. I forbid it. Do not do it." That is in Deuteronomy and Leviticus. Read there and you will find that God says to have nothing to do with any of that. Why? As I said, your flesh wants to control things. What you do not realize is that you are playing on the devil's playground. At first he will say, "How do you like this power? How do you like what is happening? Come in a little deeper and I will give you a little more." He urges you in, little by little. Then you are in his hands and his clutches and you are screaming for God to help you. Sometimes people want power or fame so much that they will sell their souls to the devil. Have you ever heard of a blues player named Robert Johnson? The story about his life is that he wanted to be famous so badly that he sold his soul to the devil. He said, "I will give you my soul, if you will make me famous." It happened but his life was a total wreck, total devastation. To those of you that are involved in something satanic, let me ask you something. Are you happy? Do you feel free? Do you have a love of life and peace, contentment, joy? Do you feel close to God? Do you look at His Word and say, "I am living by the Word of God. It is so wonderful." Is that what you are experiencing? If there is someone watching me right now, and you suddenly leaned forward like I am doing, and you looked in the screen and thought, "She is talking to me." Yes, I am. I am talking to you. Do you have those good feelings or do you find yourself surrounded by worry and fear and bad thoughts and fear of bad endings? Do you have a deep fear that maybe things are going to turn out bad after all? That is the devil's playground. Get out of that playground and get on God's playground. Just say, "Lord in Jesus' name I want out of this. I repent of anything I have done. Get me out of it and get these people away from me. Put me with good people and let me walk with you." Satan tries to tell people, "I am so powerful I can do anything for you." He wants you to think he is as big as God, but he is not. He is only an angel. Never forget that. There is only one God and there are plenty of angels, millions of angels. He was one of the angels; he was one of the most important angels. Yet, he fell and took one-third of the angels out of heaven with him. He convinced them, "Come on with me and it will be great." If you talked to a demon right now and said, "Are you really happy? Do you like not being in heaven?", what do you think he would say? It would be terrible. They are tormented and they are going to be tormented for all of eternity and so is the devil. In the very end of everything, he is cast into the lake of fire and all his demons with him and all the unbelieving people. It breaks God's heart that it did not go the way he wanted it to go in those people's lives. He gave them free will and they had to step over a lot of times that God tried to reach them, and He could not reach them because of their hard heart. Do not have a heart like that. This wall that is between you and God can produce a hardness in you. The hurt, disappointment, devastation, not knowing what in the world is going on can produce devastation in you that will make you say, "I will never turn to God. I will do it on my own." Instead you grow more and more miserable. You can fight this battle. You can defeat this unseen enemy. I am going to give you some weapons. You need to write them down.

One is the authority that Jesus has given us in Luke.

Next is the name of Jesus. Remember the story I told you about Pastor Cho. He could barely say anything but a very weak "Jesus" and it was enough.

The blood of Jesus. It is powerful, still alive today and the devil hates it. "Don't talk about the blood of Jesus. Don't use that name, I hate it."

You want to defeat him. Talk about all the times that God has helped you. Listen to other people's testimonies about all the times God has helped them.

Know the Word of God. Know the Word of God for every situation you are going through. Get someone to help you find it.

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Put on the spiritual armor that Ephesians 6 talks about. Pray in tongues. According to Ephesians 6, that is one of your best warfare tools. I know it is mine. I do not know what I would do without it. "Lord Jesus I thank you for giving me a prayer language to pray when I do not know how to pray." He will give you one. He wants you to have it and He wants you to use it.

Another big warfare tool against the devil is praise and worship.

Also, not every battle is yours. Pick your battles carefully. Know which ones God says to do it. If you need to fast, then fast. I am getting ready to go to Africa and God told me, "I want you to fast all sweets for three months." I thought it would be impossible but it has not. I am doing it. I have been for about two months now.

Take every thought captive. Jesus has the victory. He can do it, He can do it in you. You do not need to give up. If you say, "Well, I did it and it did not work." Do it thirty times. It does not matter how long you have to do it.

God always wins and your unseen enemy can be defeated completely in your life.