

Job 8:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

2 How long wilt thou speak these things? and how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind?

3 Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?

4 If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression;

5 If thou wouldst seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;

6 If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.

7 Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

8 For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers:

9 (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:)

10 Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?

11 Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?

12 Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb.

13 So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

14 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.

15 He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast,

but it shall not endure.

16 He is green before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.

17 His roots are wrapped about the heap, and seeth the place of stones.

18 If he destroy him from his place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

19 Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.

20 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers:

21 Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.

22 They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

The Destiny of the Evil One



Brother C. H. Dickerson

Man Was Created to Serve God

The Word of God lets us know that we are on a road called life, and this road has a beginning (birth) and an end (death). In the beginning God created all of us in His image and after His likeness. In other words, He created us pure and holy, and He gave us a desire to serve

Him. He put a soul within each of us, and our souls cry out for the Living God. When our relationship with God is right, the only things our souls cry out for are the things of God. The righteous soul does not cry out for the world or the things of the world, but he has a desire to serve God.

When one comes to the place of

knowing right from wrong, he chooses to do the things of the flesh because he lacks the grace to do that which is right. The grace to live for God comes by Jesus Christ, and the Truth came by Christ. To do right, one must have grace and Truth. Despite our fleshly makeup, we can live holy. God placed the desire in each of our hearts to serve Him. If

you were to take a wild animal out of its natural habitat and put it in a cage, it would pace back and forth. Very seldom would it lie down, because it would be uneasy about being caged and being in a strange place. Likewise, the world is full of uneasiness because people are out of the realm that God created for them. Friend, God created you to serve Him. When you do not serve Him, you are out of that realm and it creates an unrest in your life.

God has placed within every heart the desire to serve Him, but there have always been false accusers. A good example is found in our Scripture text concerning Bildad and his accusation against Job. We know these accusations were not true about Job because God told the devil, "Job is an upright man, and there is none like him in the earth." So, we can see that Job was a man who loved God.

Since Job served God, the devil worked through Bildad, saying in verse 6, "If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous." He went on to tell what the end was of people who were dishonest before God. In verses 13-15 he said, "So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish: Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web. [Just as the spider's web is easily torn down, so is man's hope without God—he has no hope. Man might have many things in mind, but that hope will never mature without God.] He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure."

People who are not serving God, people who are living in hypocrisy, and people who are in man-made religion are going to lean on their spiritual houses, but they are not going to stand. The only thing that can stand is God's eternal Truth, and until you get yourself set in the Truth and hold on to it, you have nothing on which to stand. If you are going to stand, you must get

hold of God's eternal Truth. God's people need to love the Truth, stand for the Truth, defend the Truth, and work to show the world the Truth.

Trusting in the Lord

The Truth will make you free. When you get God in your heart, you will be free from sin and you can have victory. You will be free from man-made religion and every binding thing; that is what God wants. When you are free, the devil has one thing in mind, and that is to captivate you, take your joy, cause you to doubt or question God, and try to kill your influence just as he tried to do with Job.

God had perfect confidence in Job; however, the devil told Job, "If you were pure and upright, God would do something in your favor." Child of God, what the devil says does not have to interfere with your peace or your experience with God. If you get saved and walk in the light, the devil will tempt you, but he can neither take away your experience nor mar it. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The enemy cannot overtake you.

Verse 20 of our Scripture text says, "Behold [or take notice], God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers." God will not help the evildoer. On the other hand, when God is on your side, the enemy cannot do anything to cause you to lose your joy and peace.

Paul wrote in Romans 2:6-8: "Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath."

David said in Psalm 37:1-3: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and

wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD [in other words, conform to the Word of God and pattern yourself after God], and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

God's people are going to be fed with the Word of God. When He gives you His Word, if you will measure to it, you will grow, and you will be fat and flourishing in the things of God. Also, you will have power that the devil cannot interfere with. He will try to oppress you, discourage you, and make an inroad into your life; however, God has promised that if you trust in Him, conform to Him, and do good, He will see that you are fed with the Word of God that will cause you to grow. Psalm 37:4-5 tells us: "Delight thyself [or have great pleasure] also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of throe heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." What a promise, and it is one that will never fail! If you will pattern your life to the Word of God and to what God has told you to do, He will see that you are fed spiritually.

Overcoming the Spirit of Lukewarmness

Today we are living in a time of spiritual famine. The Word of God is not preached everywhere. It is being withheld. Nevertheless, God said, "If you serve Me, I will send a man of God around to see that you are fed the Word of God." Why does He do that? So that you will not starve to death spiritually and so that you will be as fat as stalled calves. Then the world can see that you have something real.

We see evildoers on every side, and many of them prosper in various ways. Child of God, do not get your eyes on them. The devil is working as never before to discourage people, but you need to stay true to God; that is what lie wants you to do. That is the reason lie has ministers who preach the Gospel and the reason He has sent His Spirit

so that people can stay true to Him and work for Him.

There has never been a time that the devil has been more determined to defeat the saints of God than he is in the day and age in which we are living. If you study the Revelation, you will find that the Gospel Day was divided into seven periods of time. In each of the first six ages, Jesus complimented the church. In fact, He complimented the Ephesus church age nine times. He praised every age for what they had done, except our age—the Laodicean church age. Not one thing in Jesus' letter to the Laodicean church was complimentary. He said, "I have somewhat against you." He let them know that they were spiritually lukewarm, yet they said they had need of nothing.

In this seventh-seal age in which we are living, there is not one thing to encourage us in any way as far as good works are concerned. However, do not take the attitude, "Well, then, there is no hope." That is not what Jesus said. My friend, if you are not where you know you ought to be spiritually and you repent and live for God, you can overcome the spirit of lukewarmness.

God has made a way for all of us to make it despite discouraging circumstances. The devil would like to discourage the saints of God by saying, "What is the use?" The devil has spoken discouraging words to each of us. Psalm 73:12-14 reads: "Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning."

This is the way the devil works on the saints of God yet today. I want you to see that the devil will come around today just as he did with job. David went on to say in verses 15-18: "If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the

sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into 'destruction.'"

Wait Upon the Lord

The main reason the enemy of souls tries to discourage you is this: if you become discouraged, you will not work for God wholeheartedly. If you do not work for God wholeheartedly, you will not receive a reward. Friend, if your employer were to take away the pay from your literal job, you would soon quit because you would not have anything to work for. The same is true spiritually. If you allow the devil to rob you of the joy and the peace that you have, he will cause you to feel, "What's the use?" If that happens, you will let down on your work for God. If there is no pay, you will become discouraged and soon become disobedient, and then the devil will have accomplished what he set out to do. However, God has promised the victory. He never promised an easy way, but He did promise victory. God saved you to work for Him.

Sometimes people have the idea that they can wait until they are on their deathbeds and then get saved, but God has work for them to do. God has given you a talent. You may be unable to sing or preach, but God has a work for you to do. My friend, if you do not use your talent for God, He will cast you out as an unprofitable servant, and then there will be no payday. When God saved you, He gave you a work to do. If you are not doing your job, discouragement will follow.

God has given us promises. He said in Psalm 37:9, "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth." What a promise! If you wait on God, you shall inherit the earth. In other words, you can control your earthen vessel by the grace of God. People who do God's will are patient and content where God has placed them, and they can expect

God to bless them. The Apostle Paul went through some hard trials, and we are going to go through hard places. Not every place that we go through is going to be joyous.

The devil will cause you to remember your sinful past just as he did the Apostle Paul. Nevertheless, if you will be content where God has placed you, He will do a work for you. He said in Philippians 4:11, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Paul wrote in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." God wants you to learn to be content. If He lets you go through hard places, He wants you to be content. Do not get discouraged, because He said, in so many words, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. Whenever I let you go through a test, be content, because I am by your side. I will never let you go through more than you can bear. I will be right there to help you." I have found that God will do that very thing!

All of God's people have gone through hard places, but God has always been right there. As the writer of the song penned, "Standing somewhere in the shadows, you'll find Jesus." He is there to help and encourage you. However, sometimes He wants you to go by faith. Through it all, remember His promise: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." When you get to where it seems that you cannot go any further, He will be right there to help you. Psalm 37:3 states, "Trust in the LORD [or conform to God], and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

God will feed His people on His Word. There is nothing like the true Word of God! Sometimes it may get a little hard for you to chew, but it will make you free. It will give you everything you need. You will have a desire to hold on because God is so good to you. God's Word will give

you the strength and the encouragement you need to press on.

Power to Stand

Psalm 37:11 states, "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." The meek can control themselves through Christ and have great pleasure in the peace of God. There is nothing like the peace of God! While you are going through spiritual battles, God has wonderful peace for you. One songwriter described it as "peace like a river." When His peace moves in upon you, you will be content in that peace. The Scripture says that "the meek shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Jesus said in the Beatitudes that the meek shall inherit the earth. God will give you the power to control your spirit and your body, including your tongue. If you are not careful, the devil will cause you to speak too quickly or act in a way that will kill or damage your influence, which often takes a long time to repair. I am not saying that you cannot do what God would have you to do, to stand for the Truth and to stand against the enemy of your soul. That is not what Jesus was talking about. God wants you to control your spirit, and He will help you to do that.

You can stand for God's eternal Truth in a way that will not harm your influence and yet let people know what Truth is. Jesus stood against His enemies when they tried to make the house of God a place to sell merchandise. He took a stand against them, yet the Scripture lets us know that He did not sin at all.

God can give you the power to stand for Truth and what is right, and yet not do it in a carnal way. Saint, you can let the world know exactly what salvation is and what salvation will do for people. We are living in a time when there has been a great let down. Many people have not stood for the Truth. They have let little things cause them to deviate

from God's eternal Truth. As a result they are losing the power to keep under their bodies, their spirits, and their tongues.

James said if one can keep his tongue, he can keep the whole body. He said in James 3:6, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." James wrote in verse 2, "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." God has given His people power to control their bodies and their tongues.

The devil has one thing in mind, and that is to rob you of your peace, your joy, and your experience of salvation. Since the day that the devil was released from the bottomless pit, he has set out to destroy every saint, but God can give you the grace to overcome him and be victorious.

You can read about the end of the saints' endurance in Revelation 21:6-8: "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable [those who are nasty, hateful, and disagreeable], and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." To "him that overcometh," God has promised, "I will give to him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely," and "he that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son." This promise is not to the fearful, or to those who are afraid to take a stand.

Many people today know that they ought to stand for Truth, but they are afraid to do it. This reminds

me of when Jesus healed the blind man. When the people saw that he was healed, they asked the man's father, "Who did this for him?" he said, "You ask him. He is of age." The Scripture lets us know that he would not comment because he was afraid of being tossed out of the synagogue. It is the same yet today. Many people know what they should do, but they are afraid of getting thrown out of the synagogue, so to speak. Child of God, you must take a stand for what is right. Jesus let us know where the fearful are going to go. God put the fearful, the unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, the whoremongers, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars in the same category. Saint, you need to stand for God and Truth. God wants His people to stand for Truth, and Truth is the only thing that will take you through. When the enemy comes along to try to rob you of Truth, the Lord wants you to lift up a standard against him. He will give you the power to do that.

The Song of Deliverance

When John wrote to "him that overcometh," he was writing to the church. What do you need to overcome? You need to overcome spiritual Babylon and man-made doctrines. Spiritual Babylon has the same spirit that old literal Babylon had when she tried to make herself a name and an independent way to Heaven. God has given His people a name, and He has also made a way for them to go to Heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way." If you are going to make Heaven your home, you must come the way the Word of God says. If you will do that, you will overcome.

God wants His people to overcome Babylon. He told us in Revelation 15:2-3: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the

sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God [which is a song of deliverance], and the song of the Lamb [which is a song of redemption], saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." God has given every saint an experience so that he or she can sing the song of Moses and the song of redemption, the song of deliverance, and also the song of the Lamb. His works are great and marvelous! You can sing a song of deliverance. You can sing, "I am redeemed. I have been delivered from sin. I am free from sin." You do not have to be in bondage; that is what He said you will overcome.

God will give you power so that you can overcome. You cannot do it in yourself, but through Christ you can overcome Babylonian practices and sin, and you can be free. God does not want you to be bound. He wants to have His way in your heart and life. Not only will He give you His name but also His power so that you can sing the songs of deliverance. You can sing "I am redeemed" from the depths of your heart because you have been delivered from the bondage of sin.

When God's people went down to Egypt, it appeared to be a perfect setup for them because they were going to get some relief from the famine. However, the longer they lived there, the harder it became. Finally, God delivered them, and they could sing a song of deliverance. This is how sin works. When people first go into sin, they find much pleasure in it; but before long they become bound by vices such as drugs and alcohol, and some even commit suicide. Thank God, some people bow at an altar of prayer and get delivered from sin.

Friend, you can get saved and can be free from the habits of life, free from an old nasty, filthy tongue, and free from man-made religion. You can be delivered from all these things! Not only can you be delivered from sin and false religion, but

you can sing a song of redemption. Nothing thrills the soul of the Christian more than being able to say, "I am redeemed." They are not saying, "I am going to be redeemed," but I am redeemed." God has an experience for you right here in this life. If you wait until this life is almost over to be redeemed, it may be too late. God wants you to be redeemed now so that you can work for Him.

Requirements for Overcoming

In every age there have been requirements for overcoming. In our age the devil is using every tool he can to defeat God's people. We are in the last days of time; there is no question about that. You might say, "I have heard that for a long time." However, I have never seen the signs of time like I have seen them today. The signs of time are being fulfilled. We are living in the last days of time, and the devil is using everything he possibly can to try to defeat the church. Throughout time he has used many tactics to try to destroy the saints of God, but never before has he used everything he has to try to defeat the saints of God.

Today the devil is trying to defeat the church with lukewarmness. If you are not careful, lukewarmness will make an inroad into your life and cause the joybells to quit ringing and cause you to quit, praising God. God wants you to overcome lukewarmness. It is bringing a hush over the people of God, and the praises of God are not what they ought to be. When you realize that the Truth has set you free and think of where God has brought you from and where you are today, that ought to cause you to rejoice and praise God until the church rafters ring. My friend, if you are not careful, you will listen to the Word of God, but it will just go over your head, and you will not have any praise for God. That is not what God wants. That is a lukewarm spirit working.

Today brotherly love is growing cold, and surmising spirits are working. Surmising is never to lift up

people; it is always to press them down. These surmising spirits are for one purpose, and that is to get God's people to allow an inroad for the devil to work. If he can get you discouraged to where you do not work for God, there will be no pay. God is not a welfare director. Anything He has ever done, He told His people to do something for it. When He healed them, He said, "Take up your bed and walk." He healed another and told him to go into the city and tell others. They had to work for what they received. Friend, if you quit working for God, you are not going to get anything, spiritually speaking, because this is part of God's plan.

You may wonder, "What do you mean by getting paid?" One way you get paid is by God blessing you. There have been times when I have been so pressed down that it seemed as if nothing was going right, and then God would impress me to pray. It was not long until God rolled back the clouds, and the sun seemed brighter than ever. Everything seemed new and different, and I was encouraged. This is some pay that God gives His people. Also, when I have been sick, I have gone to God in prayer and He healed me. This is a part of our payday. This is what God does for those who serve Him, and He does these things to encourage us.

The Cares of Life

God's Word tells us not to fret because of evildoers. Fretting will eat away your joy, disturb you, and irritate you. The devil wants you to fret so that you will not be your best for God. Also, he will work through people to try to cause you to have a bad spirit. What is the biblical answer? How can you get help? Peter said to cast all your cares upon the Lord, for He cares for you.

There are so many cares today. In Luke's Gospel Jesus talked about the cares of life. There has never been a time when the cares of life have been more pressing than they

are today. People are so busy and cumbered with lots of cares. There is still the same amount of time in a day, just as in years past, yet it seems as if people are busier than ever. In fact, people are cumbered with so many cares that they do not even take time to read the Bible or to pray. One thing that people often come to the altar to pray about is their failure to read the Bible and to pray. They slacked off because they were cumbered with so many cares.

Martha was cumbered with many cares, but Jesus said, "One thing is needful," and it is needful yet today. People have so many cares and burdens that they do not take time to sit at the feet of Jesus. That is the essence of it! People are not praying because they do not take time to pray. Also, they do not take time to study God's Word.

The devil is pressing in on some people until they do not take time to go to the house of God. Church attendance is not as it ought to be. God has given you six days to do your work. However, if you are not careful, you will work those six days and still be too busy to go to the house of God. God's people continually need spiritual refreshing. Being in the world will drain your spiritually. If you are not careful, your attitude will be, "This is just prayer meeting night." However, when you miss that service needlessly, your spirituality will get so low that it will become easy to miss Sunday. The next thing you know, you will not see any need of going to the house of God at all. Too many people attend church in a spasmodic way. When the weather is right or when nothing else is pressing, they will go the house of God, otherwise they plan to do something else.

Many years ago my family used to have reunions, and they were always on Sunday. One Sunday after I finished teaching Sunday school, we left church to attend our family reunion. However, God spoke to me about it, and that was the last time we ever went to one. I wrote my family a letter and I told

them that if they wanted me to attend any more family reunions, they would have to schedule them some other day besides Sunday, because that is the Lord's day. One thing more important than anything else is hearing God's Truth. You are not going to hear God's Truth at a family reunion or out on a highway. You need to be at the house of God. All these other things are just tricks of the enemy to discourage you and drain you spiritually.

God's people go to the house of God to be encouraged. When the man of God preaches the Word, he does it to encourage you and let you know whether you are on the right track. The Word of God lets us know there are landmarks on the highway of life, so when we pass them we can know that we are on the right track.

When we are at church, our undivided attention needs to be on the service. When you go to church, is your mind on the things of God or something else? In Luke 8:14 Jesus said, "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Three things choked the Word that fell among thorns. People heard it, but it was choked by the cares of life, riches, and the pleasures of this life. Sometimes people could be at the house of God, but because of working overtime on the job, they miss church when they really do not have to.

The pleasures of life hinder many people from truly worshipping God. There has never been a time when people of the world were as pleasure hungry as they are today. Friend, I am not saying these things to criticize, but I am saying them because the devil wants to rob you of your Christian experience, your joy, and your payday. Child of God, when you get sick, you want God to come to your rescue. That is a payday. He does not owe it to you, but He will heal you. However, do you feel that you can really have faith in

God if you have been neglecting the reading of the Word? Do you feel that you can have faith in God if you have been neglecting your prayer life? Do you feel that you can have faith in God if you have neglected to attend the worship services? Being neglectful of these things will hinder your faith.

Commit Your Way Unto the Lord

Concerning evildoers, those who do not do as God says and do not manifest the Spirit of God, you should not fret or be alarmed over them. The Scripture says they are going to soon be cut down. Psalm 37:1-5 reads: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed [with God's true Word]. Delight thyself [or take great pleasure] also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way [not what you want but what God wants] unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

This might not be a message that will cause you to shout, but it is a message to warn you. The devil has set out to cause you to become lukewarm and so busy with the cares, the riches, and the pleasures of this life that you fail to take time to go to the house of God and get your soul fed. If there were ever a time when you needed to be at the house of God, it is in the day and age that we are living. Every time the church door is open, you should not allow anything to hinder you from getting to the house of God. Why? Because it is for your benefit. Every message that goes forth has something in it for you. However, if you are not careful, you will hold back when God shows you a move to make; then it will not be long until you forget it. When God wants you to make a move, He draws things to

your attention.

Friend, if you have a need, let God have His way and get that need met now. If you have been careless in your home congregation church attendance or negligent in your prayer life or in your Bible study, ask God to forgive you and help you. That is where your power comes from. When you neglect those things, you will become weak spiritually, and then you will lose your

desire to go to the house of God and become weaker still. If God has drawn a need to your Attention, you ought to do something about it now. Ask God to help you, because it is for your benefit.

God wants you to be strong. He wants you to do a work so you can get paid, not in dollars and cents but by His blessings. This is what keeps God's people going. If God quit blessing His people, getting them to

attend the house of God would be hard. However, because God blesses us, we want to go back. If you neglect attending the worship services, you will lose that blessing and, as a result, you will not have any praise for God. God will give you the power to overcome every hindrance.

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