

# ROOTS

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## *Taking a Look at the Underbelly of What Sources Our Faith*

### *IT'S A SPIRITUAL WAR! (Part 2)*

#### I. THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A TWO-FRONT WAR FOR US WHILE WE ARE IN THIS BODY – AS A RESULT IT IS WISE TO UNDERSTAND OUR KEYS TO VICTORY

- A. Developing Disciplines that Encourage a Strengthening of the Spiritual Life
1. **Memorize** the Word of God hiding as much as possible in your heart
    - a. **Psalm 119:11** *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”* (NIV)
    - b. **Romans 12:2** *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.**”* (NIV)
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ on the Word and the Lord with openness and integrity.
    - a. **I John 1:9** *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* (NIV)
  3. **Pray in the Spirit**
    - a. **Ephesians 6:18** *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”* (NIV)
    - b. **Jude 1:20** *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;”* (NAS)
    - c. **1 Corinthians 14**
  4. **Pursue righteousness**
    - a. **2 Timothy 2:22** *“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”* (NIV)
  5. **Do not allow** \_\_\_\_\_ **or unforgiveness** to dwell in your heart.
    - a. **Hebrews 12:15** *“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; **that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;**”* (NAS)

- b. **Ephesians 4:26-27, 29-32** <sup>26</sup> “Be angry, and {yet} do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil an opportunity...<sup>29</sup> Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such {a word} as is good for edification according to the need {of the moment,} that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (NAS)
- c. **2 Corinthians 2:10-11** <sup>10</sup> “If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-- if there was anything to forgive-- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, <sup>11</sup> **in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.**” (NIV)

- B. Separation from Those Things which Draw You toward \_\_\_\_\_
1. Things (items of addiction) or scenarios which produce weakness and compromise the work God is doing in your life
  2. Relationships that restrict the life of God
    - a. **2 Corinthians 6:14-16** <sup>14</sup> “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (NIV)
    - b. **1 Peter 4:3-7** <sup>3</sup> “For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup> But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. <sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.” (NIV)

- C. Practice \_\_\_\_\_ in the Right Context

1. Submission to God and His Word
  - a. **James 4:7** *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* (NAS)
  - b. **James 1:22** *“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”* (NAS)
2. Submission to pastoral covering
  - a. **Hebrews 13:17** *“Obey your leaders, and submit {to them} for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”* (NAS)
  - b. **James 5:13-16** <sup>13</sup> *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; <sup>15</sup> and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”*(NAS)

## II. SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS

- A. Can a Believer have a Demon? We Need to Understand the Nature of Man or Composition in Order to Do Battle Effectively
  1. If self-determination and practicing all the disciplines of our faith are not accomplishing any results, or if the battle takes on more of a spiritual dimension – then sometimes **“deliverance”** may be necessary.
  2. The deliverance ministry has often been hijacked by ridiculousness, fear, avoidance, or plain ignorance. Many dear saints have suffered without so much as a “look” because the “theology” conveniently left little space for the existence of \_\_\_\_\_ in those cases.
- B. Clearly the Enemy has Multiple Strategies to Inflict Pain and Suffering – Surely the Church can utilize **Several Strategies** to Release God’s People!
  1. **Matthew 17:15-21** <sup>15</sup> *“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic, and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water. <sup>16</sup> “And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said, “O unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”*

2. (Cont.) <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus rebuked him, and **the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.*** <sup>19</sup> *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"* <sup>20</sup> *And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you.* <sup>21</sup> *["But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."]* (NAS)
- a. The father's diagnosis -- <sup>15</sup> *"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic, and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water.*
  - b. The disciples inability -- <sup>19</sup> *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"*
  - c. Jesus' diagnosis and action! -- <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus rebuked him, and **the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.***
    - i. A snapshot of the issues that surround us

C. Oppressed – Possessed?

1. **Acts 10:38** *"{You know of} Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and {how} He went about doing good, **and healing all who were oppressed by the devil;** for God was with Him."* (NAS)
2. **Matthew 12:43-45** <sup>43</sup> *"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."* (NIV)