

RESIST THE DEVIL

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Last week we began a study of satan's impact on our lives through demons and spirits.

We talked about having to guard the door to our spiritual lives.

About our responsibility to protect the Temple of the Ruach

Today, I want to discuss with you some ways that demons and unclean spirits gain access to our lives.

Six Ways the Enemy Gets Access to a Person's Life

A. To grow in this arena, one must experience a world-view shift.

B. One must cling to a Biblical world-view.

C The root of every problem in this arena is **sin**.

1. Personal Sin - I am responsible for the action.
2. The sins of others against me - I am responsible for my response.
3. I am born in sin - I need a Savior.
4. I live in a fallen world and in the midst of a world system that is not yet fully redeemed and freed from the effects of sin - Yeshua will return and establish his kingdom.

1. Personal sin is an access point.

- A. A person must take responsibility for his/her own actions, decisions, feelings, emotions, attitudes, behaviors, and words. **A person cannot be free of a problem that he will not acknowledge.** He/She must be prepared to repent, renounce, and forsake sins. It is the sacrifice of Yeshua that is the answer for all sin.

- B. Eph. 4:26-27 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. (NKJ)

Here the word “place” is the word “topos” It is used figuratively of an opportunity or occasion. However, **literally it means a specific place such as a room or quarter** and has the connotation of “any portion or space marked off, as it were, from a surrounding space. “(Thayer) Hence, **Sha’ul is warning the assembly of Ephesus that through sin an opportunity or room is-given to the devil.** We relinquish this territory. It is also giving to the devil the opportunity, occasion or power to act.

- C. II Tim. 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if Yahweh perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

1. It is the responsibility of the pastor to teach and correct those in the assembly who are in sin and thereby oppose the work of Yahweh
2. It is necessary for them to come to repentance through the knowledge of the truth.
3. Those who are in sin are snared by the devil and “taken captive by the devil to do his will”

- D. **Areas of personal sin would include:**

1. Repenting for and renouncing any involvement in the occult New Age, witchcraft, divination, false teaching, religions that deny Messiah and his deity and atonement.
2. Areas of addiction and bondage to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, food, sex, etc.

3. Sins of rebellion, pride, anger, strife, selfishness, materialism, abuse, lying, stealing, gossip, sexual sins, etc.

GENERATIONAL SIN / CURSES – These follow the bloodline. They are received physically through heredity. They *are* perpetuated through learned behavior. They are perpetuated spiritually.

- A. Sins are visited to the third and fourth generation
Exodus 20:5; Numbers 14:18; Deut. 5:9
Ex. 20:4-6 'You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath., or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, Yahweh your Elohim, am a jealous Elohim, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My Commandments

The blessing is stronger than the curse to those that love Yahweh.

Yeshua took the curse for us, Therefore, it is vital to be in right relationship to Yeshua.

- A. David's sin brought judgment/curse on his family line consequently there was sexual sin, murder and rebellion in his house. II Sam. 11-13,15 and II Sam 21:1

Unforgiveness gives the enemy access.

- A. Matt. 6:15 after teaching the Lord's Prayer, Yeshua goes on to emphasize the importance of forgiveness and says if you do not forgive, neither will you be forgiven.
- B. Mark 11 -25,26 After teaching on prayer and faith, Yeshua adds that when we stand praying we must forgive EVERYONE so that we may be forgiven, He continues by saying that if we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven,
- C. Matt. 18:35 After the parable on forgiveness **-where the unforgiving servant was punished and turned over to tormentors.**, **Yeshua said to his disciples, "So shall**

my heavenly Father-do ALSO unto you, if you from your hearts forgive not, every one his brother their trespasses.

D. II Cor. 2:10-11 Unforgiveness gives Satan an advantage and is one of his devises.

Soul-ties

This literally means, "giving away a piece of one's soul."

I have learned of three ways that is done.

- Through sexual union.
- Through subordinate relationships.
- Through companionship of those with whom one keeps company.

Let us examine these and try to see how and why this principle works.

1) Sexual union

(Genesis 2:21-25) .(21) "So the LORD Yahweh caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

(22) Then the LORD Yahweh made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. (23) The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, 'for she was taken out of man.' (24) For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (25) The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."

It is clear here that an unusual event occurs. Man and woman are declared by Yahweh to be "one flesh." In further declaration, the book of Genesis goes on to declare,

(Genesis 5:1-2) .(1) . When Yahweh created man, he made him in the likeness of Yahweh. (2) He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them 'man.

Yeshua Himself, while clothed in human flesh during His time on this earth, said:

(Matthew 19:4-6) - (4) "...at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' (5) and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? (6) So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what Yahweh has joined together, let man not separate."

Sha'ul made sure that we understood the implications of sexual union when he said:

(1 Corinthians 6:15-16) - (15) "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Messiah himself? Shall I then take the members of Messiah and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

(16) Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.'"

The obvious conclusion is that sexual union is far more than a temporary joining of two bodies for pleasure, procreation, abuse, manipulation, control or any other human motive. **It is a spiritual union.**

It should not take a rocket scientist to know that if a person is in "one flesh" with someone and the human flesh is the contested territory desired by both kingdoms; the person who joins himself to someone to the point that they are "one flesh" has, indeed, made himself or herself subject to the same demons

The problem is magnified if there have been other sexual partners. Then both partners are not only open to the demons who have access to each other, but also to the demons who have access to all previous sexual partners of both, and all those people that they have been joined to, ad infinitum. I call this **"Spiritual AIDS."** In effect, one has slept with everyone their partner has slept with and all they have slept with, etc.

(a) **Getting the pieces back**

Since **spiritual fragmentation** is such a reality, and since our **heaven oriented religion** has permeated every aspect of our lives, most Christians believe that the highest good they can ever achieve after they have sinned, particularly sexually, is that they can be forgiven. They expect to stand before the bar of Yahweh's judgment without guilt.

While it is true that there are always some penalties attached to covenant violation that remain, **it is equally true that it is possible to achieve a much higher goal than that of simply being forgiven. The fragmentation of the soul can be ended.** The pieces can be called back and purity can be reclaimed.

We shall visit a very interesting portion of scripture. Before we do it, we need to be reminded of simple rules of biblical interpretation. Before one can understand any scripture correctly, he needs to ask and answer some questions regarding it. They are:

- (1) Who said it?
- (2) To whom was it said?
- (3) Under what circumstances was it said?
- (4) What meaning did it have to those to whom it was initially addressed?
- (5) Given this understanding, how does it apply to me?

Consider this scripture:

(2 Corinthians 11:2) "I am jealous for you with a Godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Messiah, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him."

We will now answer the aforesaid questions.

- 1) Sha'ul said it.
- 2) To the assembly at Corinth.
 - 3) During that time, the Corinthians worshipped the goddess Aphrodite. Her temple adorned the Acropolis, the highest point in the city. It was an imposing structure and dominated the landscape. Worship of Aphrodite was sexual in nature. The law of the city at that time said that every woman who lived there—the king's wife and daughter, the wives and daughters of slaves and noblemen—every female citizen was required to serve times on duty as a temple prostitute. If one walked down the street, he knew that every woman he saw had been a temple whore and would be again. He knew that every man he saw was a whoremonger. The city was filled with whores and whoremongers.
- 4) When the Corinthians got this word from Sha'ul, it meant that, regardless of their past sex lives, they could not only be forgiven, their purity could be restored, and they could be totally pure again.
- 5) The application is the same to us. We have the authority to reach into the realm of the spirit and reclaim the pieces that have been given away.

Husbands and wives who have never been able to have all of their spouses because there was so much given away prior to marriage, or those who have seen their marriages violated, can experience total freedom and restoration of virginal purity.

Let us quote this verse now within context:

I am jealous for you whores and whoremongers with a godly jealousy. I have promised you whores and whoremongers to one husband, to Messiah, and I am going to present you whores and whoremongers to him as pure virgins!

What a promise! Lives will be profoundly changed when people have laid hold of this truth and reclaimed their purity. So many of us have never felt pure sexually. We are sexual. Driven by sexuality, we have heard the devil telling us that we are dirty and we have agreed with him.

It is time for us to invade the enemy's camp and take back what he stole from us, even if it was with our cooperation. If those of us who would minister in the area of deliverance would be effective, we must first lay hold on this truth for ourselves and our marriages, then learn to teach it to those to whom we would bring into the freedom provided by our Messiah.

(b) Godly soul ties

It is important that we understand that there are Godly soul ties as well as ungodly. The Hebrew word for sexual union is “yada.” It is first used in the Bible relating to Adam and Eve.

(Genesis 4:1) - “Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant...”

This word “yada” is a mystical word that includes far more than putting two bodies together in physical union. **It speaks of knowing in a way that multiplies spiritual power.** It is a renewing of covenant. **It is designed by Yahweh to make a man and a woman so completely one that they are bound together in a way that makes hell tremble!**

Sexual union outside marriage has the opposite effect. It divides the soul. There is spiritual fragmentation. **One leaves part of himself forever with the person with whom he or she shares his or her body.** Each literally “gets a piece” of each sexual partner and leave a “piece” of themselves with each one. That is why, until you were married the devil did everything he could to get you in bed; and, after you are married he does everything he can to keep you out of bed.

Sha’ul used the same concept to speak of our relationship to Yahweh.

(Philippians 3:10) - “I want to know Messiah and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...”

The Greek word for “know” is “ginosko,” which has the same connotations as the Hebrew word, “yada.” Both speak of mystical union and of oneness, which are powerful concepts that Yahweh has molded into our sexuality.

C) A major teaching aid

Yahweh designed our sexuality to teach us about Himself and our relationship with Him. We are made in the likeness of Yahweh:

(Genesis 5:1-2) —(1) “...When Yahweh created man, he made him in the likeness of Yahweh. (2) He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them ‘man.’”

Since we are created in the image of Yahweh, everything about the way He made us originally should teach us about Him.

It is true, however, that when man sinned he lost his identity with Yahweh and became more like the devil with his flesh in alignment with the other kingdom. **The enemy has obviously perverted sexuality.** We wish to examine it as Yahweh designed it, not as the enemy has perverted it.

(d) A useful premise

The assembly is the bride of Messiah. Sha’ul makes that clear:

(Ephesians 5:21-33) –(21) “Submit to one another out of reverence for Messiah. (22) Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife as Yeshua is the head of the assembly, his body, of which he is the Savior. (24) Now as the assembly submits to Yeshua, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as

Yeshua loved the assembly and gave himself up for her (26) to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a radiant assembly, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (28) In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies, He who loves his wife loves himself. (29) After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Yeshua does the assembly--(30) for we are members of his body. (31) 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' (32) *This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Yeshua and the assembly.* (Emphasis, mine)

(33) However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Since brides are female, it is obvious that we all relate to Yahweh, female to male. Since Yahweh chose to illustrate His truth in this fashion, we are looking for Him to return to His bride; and, as the Word speaks of a marriage feast for Yeshua and His bride, let us see how sexuality fits into that picture.

(e) The male sex drive

Those of us who are students of human nature have some understanding of how the male sex drive works, We know that, in the early part of the male/female relationship, a male will do all a female allows him to do sexually. He will do it as quickly as he can. If she does not draw the line, he will be stopped by no emotion other than fear. **It may be fear of:**

- pregnancy,
- sexually transmitted disease,
- rejection (he may fear “striking out” and his masculine ego can’t risk it),
- Yahweh,

You may make this list longer, but it is abundantly clear that this is the way that male sexuality acts in its initial stages.

Are you able to see spiritual significance here?

Is it not true that the Holy Spirit pursues us - the bride of Messiah? Do you remember the time before you really knew Him when he continued the pursuit, “making passes” and never stopping in His pursuit until He brought you into wonderful intimacy with Yeshua?

It is Yahweh's design that every time a male looks at a female with desire, he (and, indeed, she, too) should be able to hear Yahweh saying, "I want you to know how badly I want to be intimate with you."

Instead of our having been taught that, by word and deed many of us were taught that our sexuality was an unholy thing. We males were made to feel hopelessly contaminated by the drive that Yahweh placed within us and from which none of us is ever free. Females were made to feel that males were unholy predators who only wanted to use them for selfish purpose. Even when sexual pleasure is gained, many feel that they have intruded into an area that is, somehow, "naughty" and evil.

Historically the assembly has given either badly mixed or totally negative messages about our sexuality.

I wonder how different my own life and the lives of those around me would have been had I been taught at an early age the holiness of my sexuality. Many years of condemnation could have been avoided as would many hours of feeling that I was different from and grossly inferior to all those who were really "in Messiah."

(f) The female sex drive

The female sex drive is the complementing opposite of the male sex drive. Yahweh made a woman to want to be desired, pursued, treasured, made secure and brought into wonderful and passionate intimacy with her "soul mate."

Her sex drive is the divinely given illustration of the way the assembly - the bride of Yeshua desires to be pursued by Him and to be intimate with Him. The desires of a woman to be made secure and treasured by her lover depict the same desires the assembly should have towards Yeshua. Every time a woman desires a man, she is hearing the voice of our Elohim declaring His passion for and His delight in His bride.

(g) A covenant of blood

It was with one blood sacrifice that our Lord made covenant with His assembly.

Yahweh made a similar covenant sign for a man and a woman. The first time a woman is sexually joined to a man, her hymen is broken and she is forever joined to her man.

Students of human nature are aware that, [when a girl gives herself to a man sexually the very first time, she is his](#). In a very real way, unless her nature has been violated to the point that the enemy has stolen all that is most precious to her, a girl is profoundly joined to her first sexual partner. **Yahweh's Word does not command a woman to love her husband.** It is unnecessary for the command to be given. It is a violation of her nature for her not to love the man to whom she gives her body.

The very first sexual union is a union of blood covenant.

[Every subsequent union within marriage is a renewal of covenant.](#)

Sexual union within marriage is a physical picture of our covenant with Yahweh. Married sexual union is as holy as taking communion. It is a celebration of oneness with one's partner, as together the two celebrate union with Yeshua.

(h) [Sexual passion in marriage](#)

The closest this side of heaven any one of us will ever come to knowing Yahweh's passion for His assembly is in the most passionate sexual embrace of the marriage bed.

Yahweh's word is clear about this. In Proverbs 5, men are commanded to avoid contact with prostitutes and to leave other women alone. Then, [\(Proverbs 5:18- 19\) \(18\) "May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. \(19\) A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love."](#)

"May your fountain be blessed." This refers to continuing virility all the days of your life.

"May you rejoice in the wife of your youth." This says, may your relationship with her be so satisfying that you never need or desire someone else.

“May her breasts satisfy you always.” This obviously refers to passionate, fulfilling enjoyment of her body in foreplay.

“May you ever be captivated by her love.” So much is lost here in the English translation; however, in Hebrew this indicates Yahweh’s desire that the man be increasingly intoxicated with passion for his wife as the years pass. Most men and women can remember the passion of courtship and early marriage. **It is Yahweh’s desire that this never diminish, indeed, that it grow as the years pass.**

Remember that the purpose is to make us one. It is to teach us our Lord’s passion for His assembly. It is designed by Yahweh to multiply His spiritual power.

(I) **If you were the devil**

What would you do to sexuality? Would you:

- prevent parents from teaching their children about the holiness of sexuality?
- prevent the assembly from teaching about the holiness of sexuality?
- make a male feel that his sexuality was impure from his early childhood?
- make a male feel that his masculinity was proved by conquest?
- make a male feel that females were to be used, abused, and abandoned?
- make a female feel that her sexuality was impure from childhood?
- have older women teach younger women to resent men and the man’s sexuality?
- make a female feel used rather than treasured?
- use males and females to reinforce the negative stereotypes?
- cause both genders to have sexual experiences in youth to reinforce those same stereotypes?
- cause pressure from peers to exist to get young people to violate Yahweh-given sexual principles so
- they become fragmented and their future marriages diminished?
- fill the media with sinful sexual hype?
- cause incest to be common?
- make men selfish and unskilled as lovers?
- make women cold and resentful?

- permeate society with pornography?
- promote divorce and fatherless homes?
- give children poor models in their homes as they observe their parents?
- etc. etc. etc. ad infinitum.

2) Subordinate relationships

This includes pastors, teachers, counselors, hypnotists, fortunetellers, etc.

It is important that we are reminded that we realize that there are good and bad soul ties. One's soul tie with his pastor, if it is a wholesome relationship, is godly.

I will tell you, however, you should pray for your pastor as a matter of self defense. If a pastor falls into sin and if demons gain a legal right to him, than those under his authority are open to the same demons.

When a parent is able to maintain control over a child, even into the child's adulthood, an ungodly soul tie has been created and needs to be forcibly removed in the spirit realm.

This area has proven itself to be bigger than we may ever know.

3) Companionship

All parents instinctively know about this. Each of us worries about the kids our kids keep company with. Sha'ul warned us, *(I Corinthians 15:33-34)*. (33) *'Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."* (34) *Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning...* The reason good kids, who keep company with bad kids, become bad rather than the bad kids becoming good is that we are dealing with the invisible world. One is simply being targeted by demons and there is an opening given for demonic manipulation. Sha'ul warns of the danger of being misled. No one thinks it will happen to him. Sha'ul calls this attitude or circumstance for what it is -he calls it sin.

V. Trauma and Objects gives the enemy access.

Many times trauma brings strongholds of fear, grief, depression, anger, and rejection. Yeshua said that He was sent to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, . . . to set at liberty them that are bruised.” (Luke 4:18, KJV) Therefore, we must be prepared to minister to those who come to us who are wounded and bruised.

A. Physical

1. Accidents
2. Violent crimes
3. Rape
4. Natural disasters

B. Emotional

1. Abandonment
2. Abuse
3. A death or significant loss

C. Social

1. Wars
2. Poverty
3. Societal

C). Objects

- 1, Statues (Mother Mary, Saints)
2. Icons
3. Pictures, Books, Magazines
4. Demonic Symbols, Crystals,
5. Art (Not of Yahweh) Buda, Frogs, Fertility Symbols)
6. Fetish (An object believed to have spiritual powers or an obsessive attachment or fixation)

VI. Judgments and Vows

Words that are spoken into existence by all of us. Prov. 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. (NKJV)

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is not:

Agreement: (With what they did)

Consent: (Giving permission to hurt you)

Denial:

Approval

Forgiveness does not:

Minimize the transgression, hurt, offense, or violation.

It does not mean the offending party is not responsible

(Luke 23:34; Acts 2:23; Acts3:14 15; Acts7:52-53; Acts 10:39)

Luke 23:34 Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided his clothes by casting lots.

Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by Yahweh's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Mean what they did was "okay"

Forgiveness is:

Recognizing that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers. Eph 6:12

Putting the anger and hatred in the right place. Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity (hatred) between thee and the woman; between thy seed and her seed... " **Forgive the person: hate the demons.**

Extending to the person the same grace we have received from Yeshua who paid all our debt when we had no ability to pay it for ourselves and when we did not deserve it.

Releasing the person of all unmet expectations, of all the debt they owe, of all bitterness, of all vows and judgments.

Next week we will look at what we need to do to get free from such spiritual activity and stay free.

How to Stay Free

The secret of staying free from the powers of darkness once you are free entails a simple four-point outline found in James 4 verses seven through ten:

(James 4:7-10) - (7) Submit yourselves then to Yahweh. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Come near to Yahweh and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Here is the outline. We will look at it as a unit and then examine the steps individually and in detail.

1. **Submit to Yahweh**
2. **Recognize the devil**
3. **Resist the devil (He'll flee from you.)**
4. **Repent quickly**

Now let us examine each of these points individually.

Submit to Yahweh

Within this context, you have been found in an adulterous embrace with Yahweh's enemy, the devil. Here, the word "submit" is a totally sexual word. It means, **tear yourself from your false lover and throw yourself with passion into the arms of Yeshua.**

Now, if you will consider **Ephesians 5:22** where wives are commanded to submit to their own husbands, it just might cast a different light on the subject. Marriages would be transformed if both parties just understood this. **Men**, doesn't this sound a lot better than having your wife be a door mat? **Ladies**, doesn't a bit of passion sound better than being beat over the head with a demand that you cease thinking and having input into the decisions of your lives?

You see, in order for any married man to like himself sexually, he must feel wanted. Many, many marriages have deep problems because the wife does not know how to make her man feel wanted. The second ingredient for a married man's successful sexual relationship with his wife is that he only receives by giving. He must, at the conclusion of a sexual encounter, be able to beat himself on the chest and boast about what he just did **for** his wife.

The man who does not experience these two things is in danger of taking a mistress. She may be his work, a hobby, or a real flesh and blood woman. If these ingredients are not in his relationship with his wife, he cannot like himself. This is why the Word

commands wives to submit to their husbands. We men receive only by giving. We are like our Elohim in that.

Does not the Bible say, (Luke 6:38) - "Give and it will be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Now, what Yahweh is saying to His assembly, His bride, is, "I want you to give yourself to me passionately. It breaks my heart to see you in the devil's embrace. I want you for myself."

Let me emphasize, **Yahweh does not want grudging acquiescence from us**. He does not want a relationship with us where we just roll over and play dead because He is Yahweh and we see no reasonable alternative. He wants an intimate, passionate, loving relationship with us where we delight in Him and His embrace.

Please permit this emphasis again, **unless you are in the embrace of Yeshua giving yourself to Him with passionate delight, you can resist the devil until your face turns blue and it will not work.** Have you ever resisted him and he didn't go anywhere?

You often hear people say "The Bible says, 'Resist the devil and he'll flee from you.'" It simply does not say that. It does say that, if you are submitted to Yahweh, you can resist the devil and he will flee from you. Otherwise, he will laugh in your face.

Recognize the Devil

It is difficult to overstate the importance of this step. It is interesting that in James 4 this is not stated, however it is clearly inferred. You see, you can never resist the devil unless you recognize him. In the assembly of Yeshua HaMoshiach for centuries now we have been taught to ignore the devil. We have been afraid of giving him too much credit. Unfortunately, the devil has delighted in this, and we are all much the worse for the wear. I must remind you of Hosea's statement:

(Hosea 4:5) — "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Our problem is that the devil never properly identifies himself when he comes to our house. If he wore a red suit and carried a pitchfork, if he had cloven hoofs and horns, if he had a long tail with an arrow on the end of it, if he was breathing fire and he came to my house and rang the bell and said, "Hello, I am the devil and here is what I want you

to do,” I’d have no problem in knowing what to do. However he comes disguised for the purpose of deceiving. Let us consider some of the scriptural statements regarding this:

(Revelation 12:9) — “The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

(2 Corinthians 11:14) — “...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

(2 Corinthians 11:3) - “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Yeshua.”

Our problem is that, **when the enemy comes he plays into our weakness or the fact that our flesh agrees with him.** He has a ready ally. That is the ally of our flesh and our carnal minds. When he comes to me, his best disguise is not even as an angel of light. I am probably too spiritually sophisticated for that to work on me.

I have never, however, been tempted to do anything my flesh did not like and with which it did not agree. My wife cannot be tempted with “green beans”.

Let us look at some more of the Word, then we will apply it.

(Romans 8:5-8) - (5) “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.. (6) The mind of sinful man is death but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; (7) the sinful man is hostile to Yahweh. It does not submit to Yahweh’s law, nor can it do so. (8) Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please Yahweh.”

(Galatians 5:17) — “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature: They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want!”

As I have said I can only be tempted by what my flesh likes. The enemy’s best disguise is not as an angel of light when he comes to my house. It is as me. The thoughts he brings to my mind are first person thoughts. He does not say, “Earl, you like _____,” or, “Earl, you don’t like _____.” He injects my thought process with “I like _____.” Or, “I don’t like _____”

So, you see, one of the biggest problems is that of recognizing the devil so you can resist him. **The danger is that we are so involved that we don’t want to resist when we recognize our adversary because our flesh agrees with him.**

Resist the Devil

Now, perhaps, you are seeing that this resistance is a bit more complicated than that seen by the first cursory look at this scripture. First, I must be in the passionate embrace of my Lord giving myself to Him without reservation. Then, I must recognize satan when he comes to me.

It is true that, if you are passionately involved with Yeshua, the likelihood of not recognizing the devil diminishes appreciably. This just points out the proportion of time we walk in the flesh, not in the Spirit. No wonder the Word says, (Galatians 5:18) "...if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law of sin and death."

Now, can you imagine a woman who is approached by a former suitor while she is passionately making love to her husband? Do you think he would dare approach her then? **Can you imagine a demon having the nerve to stand around tempting us when we are in the arms of Yeshua in passionate embrace?** Those demons have good memory. It is not difficult for them to recall that Yeshua, (Colossians 2:15) - "...having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

No wonder they flee. Wouldn't you? Don't you suppose the demons remember that time before time as we know it existed when they had been led in rebellion that was initially subtle, then exposed, and our Messiah took them and their boss in His great hand and hurled them to the earth in darkness. Then the incident of the stake displays when He held them up again exposing them in abject ridicule. They flee all right. They will continue to do so when we do it right.

Repent Quickly

A good place to begin this section would be to look at the definition of repentance. **The traditional concept is that one is going down the street one way, changes his mind, and turns and goes the opposite way as quickly and vigorously as he can.**

That is simply an erroneous definition. Repentance begins with an awareness of the absence of the intimate presence of Yahweh. When one is truly repentant, from the inner depths of his being he finds himself crying out to Yahweh, "Oh, Yahweh, I miss you! I can't stand the absence of your intimate presence." **Genuine repentance is intense and personal and it involves the pursuit of Yahweh.** There are two wonderful scriptural settings from which we may see it pictured.

The first is the Old Testament example of King David. After he had sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba and then having her husband, Uriah, in effect,

murdered in battle, Yahweh exposed his sin through the prophet, Nathan. (Psalm 51:1-17)

It is obvious that David's sin was serious. He had obviously sinned against the nation he was called to lead; against Bathsheba who he seduced abusing the enormous power of his position as her king; against Uriah whose wife he had seduced; then had him thrust into the most dangerous place on the battle field where he was, predictably, killed, and a host of others whose lives were directly impacted by this litany of sin,

The casual reader is left to wonder if David's attitude toward them and his own culpability are cavalier at best. Then, a closer look reveals that he is in no way denying any or all of this, He is simply saying that the interruption in his intimacy with Yahweh so overshadows all the rest that they are relatively unimportant. He is saying, "Until I get my relationship repaired with you, Yahweh, I am unable to think intelligently about any of the other."

Note in **Psalm 51:1-2**, a cry for mercy based on Yahweh's character, not his own.

In **Psalm 51:3**, he confesses that his sin is never out of his mind for even an instant.

In **Psalm 51:4**, he makes the powerful statement that his sin is against Yahweh. **Against Yahweh only.** What a powerful revelation this is. Yahweh wants that same truth to come into our hearts so that the seeds of genuine repentance can be sown in the soil of our spirits.

In **Psalm 51:5**, he confesses his heart condition. Positioned against Yahweh in his attitude from the womb.

In **Psalm 51:7-9**, he confesses again that his only hope is in Yahweh's merciful action toward him.

In **Psalm 51:10**, he declares his confidence that Yahweh can do an inward work, changing his heart.

In **Psalm 51:11**, he surfaces his worst fear. The absence of Yahweh's presence is a possibility that causes him unspeakable anguish. Is this not more to fear than the flames of torment in hell?

In **Psalm 51:12**, he begs for restoration of joy. He has discovered that, out of the presence of the Lord, there is no possibility of joy. Pleasure is fleeting, but joy is a continual gift that results from His presence.

In **Psalm 51:13**, he promises that when this is accomplished, he will use this as an opportunity to teach others the ways of Yahweh. He will not cover his sin. It is here that

he will make obvious his understanding that his sin has affected others seriously and adversely.

In **Psalm 51:14-15**, he promises that he will not only teach because of his sin, but he will praise Yahweh like he has never known how to do it before. He will teach praise and worship.

In **Psalm 51:16**, he challenges the tradition of a religion of ceremony and works. These words flew in the face of the organized religion. Later, Isaiah and other major and minor prophets would echo this theme. Sha'ul, in the New Testament would pose the question, "Have you, having begun in the spirit, continued in the flesh?"

In **Psalm 51:17**, David reveals the nature of the sacrifice Yahweh desires.

Here is a major problem. **One cannot repent as an act of his will.** **Repentance is a gift from Yahweh.** It is a treasured and precious gift.

Later we would learn more about this process from Sha'ul's second letter to the Corinthian assembly. In his first letter to them he had the unpleasant task of rebuking them strongly for a number of serious problems they were tolerating in their body. Now he says,

(2 Corinthians 7:8-10) (5) "Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while — (9) yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as Yahweh intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. (10) Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

The other place in scripture that gives a powerful picture of what happens when there is genuine repentance is:

(James 4:8-10) (8) "Come near to Yahweh and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. (9) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

What you will notice here is that there is the same passion present that was present in David's life at the time of his great sin. **Yahweh must be approached.** You are an adulterous mate. Your husband is aware. You cannot ignore and cover your sin. Start with physical washing, change offensive conduct. Now, let it get in your heart. Grieve. Mourn. Wail. Quit going about as if everything is all right, change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. This relationship is with Yahweh. This intimacy with Him is important. it makes everything else in life pale into insignificance,

Now, the glorious promise: if you humble yourself before Him, He will not treat you as your sin deserves, but He will reach down and pick you up and restore you to His side as His pure, spotless bride,

The Old Testament story of Hosea and Yahweh's instructions to him comes quickly to mind when we discuss this. (Hosea 1:2, Hosea 3:1-3)

Even though Hosea's wife had lived her life in *pursuit* of her own pleasure, even though she was used until he found her in the slave quarters where the old prostitutes were confined when they could hardly sell themselves any longer, Hosea restored her as his own and treasured her as his wife. We may find great assurance in the awareness that our Lord approaches us with love, not a desire to condemn. He comes with a passion to restore, not to punish.

Now that we have established a biblical context for repentance, let us remind you that **the fourth step of walking in freedom and victory before our Lord, free from strongholds of the enemy is to repent, quickly.** How often must I repent? Once a week? Once a day? No, in my own life, **I must live a lifestyle of repentance.** I must set a guard at the gate of my mind.

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5) (3) "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. (4) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (5) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of Yahweh, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Yeshua."

We take captive every thought! **Why?** We repent quickly! **Why?**

Let us look again at the context of the human body and its sexual involvement. I remind you that, if you do not understand human sexuality and function of the human body, you will never understand your relationship with Yahweh. For instance, let us pose this question:

How quickly does a thought in my mind become sin?

The most common answer given in theological circles is that it becomes sin when, given the opportunity, you would act on it.

The question is important enough that it demands close scrutiny, because Yeshua addressed it Himself:

(Matthew 5:27-29) (27) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' (28) But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (29) If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

Just how quickly does this occur? Look at the following verse and examine it carefully.

(James 1:15) "...after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

What is **the key word** in this verse? - It **is conceived**. How does conception occur in the female body? (Remember, we are the bride of Yahweh, and brides are female, so the analogy holds consistently.) Conception occurs when a sperm cell that is from outside a woman's body is placed within her body where it is joined to an egg cell that is already within her. In the precise instant those two cells are joined together inside her, she is pregnant. She has conceived.

The same principle works in the human spirit. The enemy brings a thought to my mind. **In the precise instant my spirit agrees with it and embraces it, I am pregnant with the enemy's seed.** What a totally revolting thought!

You do remember, my problem is that the enemy never brings a thought to my mind if he does not already know my flesh likes it. His most effective disguise is when he pretends to be me. **My problem is that I have often agreed with the enemy before I recognize him, and I am pregnant with what he put within me.**

What, then is the answer? We will return to the analogy of the function of the human body. When a woman is pregnant, how can that being within her body be removed? There are only two ways. **One is by birth, and the other is by abortion.** We are already told in James 1:15 that the effect of allowing it to come full term is death. That is not a good choice, though I must admit that many in hopelessness have followed this path.

I am certainly no proponent of abortion in the physical arena, but I am a proponent passionately in the spiritual arena. Let us look again to the Word of Yahweh.

(1 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."

If I ask people to complete the verse after I have quoted the first phrase, almost without fail they will quote it, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins." It is interesting that they end here. **The reason is that the assembly has taught forgiveness that frees us from penalty at the time of our death when we stand before Yahweh.**

We are promised more than a state of justification, more than forgiveness. **We are promised that He will restore purity!** We call that process of restoration, spiritual abortion. You may receive this now!

The devil's seed can be aborted!

How do I achieve this? Having achieved it, how do I maintain it? Most Believers live with the frustration expressed so eloquently by Sha'ul:

(Romans 7:21-24) (21) ...When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. (22) For in my inner being I delight in Yahweh's law; (23) but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. (24) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

The only way I can live in this world in a way that pleases my Lord is by living a ***lifestyle of repentance***. I must know the Godly sorrow that comes from realizing the untrustworthiness of my nature and taking captive every thought, bringing them into obedience with Yeshua. **How often must I repent? I must live there.**

The Perpetual Battleground

If I could not think, I would have not problem with the devil. **The battleground is my mind**. It is no accident that Sha'ul said:

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5) (3) "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. (4) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (5) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of Yahweh, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Yeshua."

It is here that a powerful picture is presented. In 2 Corinthians 10:3, we are clearly told that **we simply must not use the weapons of this world**. It is obvious that these are the weapons over which we in the assembly have been pursuing mastery. Many of us have been quite successful in their use. The problem with this is that it does little more than put a band-aid on a cancer.

In 2 Corinthians 10:4, we have been told that, if we use spiritual weapons available to use, those weapons have the power to demolish strongholds. Not just give placebo treatment, but tear down the structure giving the problem ability to exist.

It is in 2 Corinthians 10:5, that the battleground and the tactics of the enemy are exposed. **We must demolish arguments**. Do you suppose those are the arguments of men, or of unseen but very real entities living within those strongholds within our bodies arguing with our minds? **Is it possible for a demon to plant a thought within me and have me believe it is my own thought?**

The verse continues by exposing the nature and function of the arguer. It is a pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of Yahweh. If something is able to set itself up, it has cognitive power. It can think, hence the capacity to argue.

It has an announced objective. **It sets itself up against the knowledge of Yahweh.** The creature emulates its boss. In the beginning he said,

(Isaiah 14:12-14) (12) “Now you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (13) You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven: I will raise my throne above the stars of Yahweh; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. (14) I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

We may be sure that each demon seeks to do similarly, though on a lesser scale. The arena the demon calls home is a person’s body. He attacks through the mind with thoughts or arguments. He seeks to separate the person from intimate knowledge of Yahweh. He seeks to be worshipped.

How do you suppose one would worship a demon of gossip? Of division? Of divorce? Of anger? Of lust? This is why Sha’ul told us that we must take every thought captive and bring them into obedience to Yeshua, every thought.

We must become living sacrifices, beings with will and rights surrendered to the King of Kings.

(Romans 12:1-2) (1) “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of Yahweh’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Yahweh — this is your spiritual act of worship. (2) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but (3) be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what Yahweh’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

My mind is the battleground. When I walk in the spirit, there is an easily discernible reason. There is an equally discernible reason when I walk in the flesh.

(Romans 8:5-8) (5) “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (6) The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; (7) the sinful is hostile to Yahweh. It does not submit to Yahweh’s law, nor can it do so. (8) Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please Yahweh.”

(Ephesians 4:22-24) (22) “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (23) to be made new in the attitude of your minds; (24) and to put on the new self, created to be like Yahweh in true righteousness and holiness.”

If I will be free, I must learn to put a guard at my thought gate. **In the event I recognize that I have departed from His intimacy for even a moment or two, I must not despair.** That would be according to the conspiracy from the other kingdom. I must repent quickly and remove any presence left of the other kingdom. **I declare it can be done and it is a delightful walk.**