

# Jesus Has Defeated Satan



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Church of the Nazarene  
Africa West Field  
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Christian Books Melanesia, Inc.  
P.O.Box 488, Wewak,  
Papua New Guinea

Originally Published by Victory Books  
Jesus Has Defeated Satan  
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Translated into English by Heidi Wakunai and Reggie Howard from the Tok Pisin book  
*Jisas I Winim Satan.*

Reprinted 2016 • Church of the Nazarene, West Africa Field

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# INTRODCUTION

Today there is a big fight going on. This fight is not between families or clans. This fight is not between two countries. This fight is not only for today or for some months or years. This fight has been going on since the time of Adam and Eve. This fight has been going on between God and Satan, between God's angels and Satan's evil powers of darkness.

It is a big fight that includes every human and every spirit on the face of this earth.

You and I are also included in this fight.

Our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, listened to Satan's lies and spoiled the good life that God had planned for us. Because they obeyed Satan they ended up becoming his slaves, living under his control. Their sin against God opened the way for all kinds of sickness and evil to come in and spoil the beautiful world that God had made.

However, God saw us lost and hopeless. He did a great thing for us by sending his son Jesus Christ, who left heaven to come down to his earth. Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil in order to bring us back into the family of God. Satan is not at all happy about this idea. He is burning with anger and has tried his best in every way to spoil the plan of God. Today Satan is still at work and many of us are being threatened, deceived, and pulled away from following the right path to do all kinds of evil deeds.

Being a Christian is not an easy life, the reason being that we are fighting every day. But listen to what Jesus said, "I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble. But be brave! I have defeated the world!" (John 16:33).

As Christians, let us rejoice because the Bible clearly tells us that Jesus has already defeated Satan. If we hold firm to Jesus we can also defeat Satan and rejoice with God forever. "Anyone who wins the victory will receive this. And I will be his God, and he will be my son" (Rev 21:7).

# 1 HOW DID SATAN COME TO BE?

We know that Satan is our enemy.

But how did he come to be?

Was he created by God?

If God created him, how come he is God's enemy?

How can it be that God lets him do so many bad things?

We can thank God that he gives us the answers to these important questions. The answers are found in the Bible.

Some Christians have wrong ideas about Satan. They think that Satan also existed from the very beginning, and has power and authority just like God. The Bible tells us that this is not true. Only God was there before anything else. Satan was created with all the other things by God himself.

“Before the world began, there was the Word (“Word” is another name for Jesus). The Word was with God, and the Word was God ... All things were made through him. Nothing was made without him” (John 1:1-3). When God created Satan, he was one of God's angels. God made him as a good angel along with the other angels. But then one day he became proud and wanted to become like God. When God saw what this angel was trying to do, he cast him out of heaven.

The Bible has some illustrations to help us understand what happened to Satan.

## **The king who fell**

God mentioned some things about the king of Tyre in Ezekiel chapter 28. At that time the city of Tyre was a big city and it was rich with money and many other good things. The king of Tyre was in charge of all those things and boasted about himself. The prophet Ezekiel went to

the king and spoke to him about his pride. In the middle of his words Ezekiel seems to change and start speaking directly to Satan. Ezekiel did this because Satan was the true king of Tyre and God is talking about him.

This is what God says about Satan.

“You were an example of what was perfect. You were full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You had a wonderful life ... I appointed a living creature to guard you. I put you on the holy mountain of God. You walked among the gems of fire. Your life was right and good. This was from the day you were created, until evil was found in you ... So, I threw you down in disgrace from the mountain of God. And the living creature who guarded you forced you out from among the gems of fire. You became too proud because of your beauty. You ruined your wisdom because of your greatness. I threw you down to the ground. Your example taught a lesson to other kings” (Ezek 28:12-17).

Satan began as a good angel, however he became proud so God threw him out of heaven.

## **The star that fell**

“King of Babylon, morning star, you have fallen from heaven, even though you were as bright as the rising sun! In the past all the nations on earth bowed down before you. But now you have been cut down. You told yourself, “I will go up to heaven. I will put my throne above God’s stars. I will sit on the mountain of the gods. I will sit on the slopes of the sacred mountain. I will go up above the tops of the clouds. I will be like God Most High. But you were brought down to the grave. You were brought down to the deep places where the dead are” (Is 14:12-15).

Before Satan got thrown down he was in charge of the other angels. Though he was given power, authority, and great beauty still he wasn’t happy with the title God had given him. He strongly desired to gain God’s glory for himself, so he began to lift himself high to make himself equal to the Most High God. This was a very wrong thing to do, so he

was thrown out of heaven. Today Satan is a very evil creature. He is burning with anger and is trying his best to spoil everything God has created. He has become the bitter enemy of God and ourselves.

## **How did Satan come to be?**

A verse in the New Testament speaks clearly about Satan's sin. It also warns us to be careful not to have pride. "A new believer might be too proud of himself. Then he would be judged guilty for his pride just as the devil was" (1 Tim 3:6).

We will look at many more verses in the Bible that show us more clearly about Satan. Let us not forget that Satan changed from a good creature to a very evil one. Satan is proud and selfish. He does not care about either God or us. He thinks about only himself.

## 2 SOME OF SATAN'S NAMES

Satan is called by many different names in the Bible. These names tell us what Satan is like.

### **The ruler of this world**

Jesus called Satan “the ruler of this world” in John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11. Paul also called him “The devil who rules this world” (2 Cor 4:4). Satan is working very hard to keep people as his slaves. He is the ruler of this world and uses all kinds of methods and tricks to convince people not to obey God.

The Bible says, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. These are the evil things in the world: wanting things to please our sinful selves, wanting the sinful things we see, being too proud of the things we have. But none of those things comes from the Father. All of them come from the world. The world is passing away. And everything that people want in the world is passing away. But the person who does what God wants lives forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Satan is ruling the world for the time being, but he will not rule for long. Jesus said, “... the ruler of this world is already judged” (John 16:11). Soon God’s angel will blow the trumpet and Satan will have no way to hide. God will throw him into the lake of fire. And that is where Satan is going to be forever (Rev 20:10).

Satan is not the rightful ruler of this world, he is a false ruler. When Jesus rose from the grave he said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me” (Mathew 28:18). Jesus is the true ruler of both heaven and earth but Satan refuses to submit to his rule. He is the enemy of all that

is good and right. Satan and his evil powers are in a big fight against the people of God. You and I are also involved in this fight and we need to resist our enemy.

## **The ruler of the evil spirits**

Remember that Satan does not work alone. He works with a large army. His army is made up of the evil powers of darkness. The Bible calls Satan “The ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth” (Eph 2:2).

In Ephesians 6:12 we see some names given to these spirits who work with Satan. “We are fighting against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world’s darkness”.

There is a parable in Revelation 12:4 that speaks about a dragon’s tail that sweeps away one third of the stars in heaven and throws them down to the earth. This parable means that when Satan was found disobedient he was thrown out of heaven and many other angels went with him. It looks like one third of all the angels rebelled along with Satan. And Satan is the boss of them all.

## **The one who tempts us**

Paul calls Satan “the tempter” (1Thes 3:5). In the beginning Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. From that time until today he still goes around tempting people.

When Jesus was on this earth, he was also tempted by Satan. Satan did everything he could to try and make Jesus sin. The Bible says, “When he lived on this earth, he was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin” (Heb 4:15). Jesus stood firm and overcame every temptation. Because of this Jesus is able to help us when we are tempted. The Bible promises us that, “The only temptations that you have are the temptations that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempt-

ed, God will also give you a way to escape that temptation. Then you will be able to stand it” (1 Cor 10:13).

## **The one who accuses people**

Satan is always looking for ways to find fault against us. However, God has not given him the right to judge and condemn us. Not at all. But still he tries to discourage us through his accusing words. Many times he says to the Christians, “You have fallen into sin and there is no way God will forgive you. You are hopelessly lost.”

Many times Satan uses non-Christians to tempt Christians to turn away from God. If they sin, their conscience makes them feel guilty. Satan then speaks to us saying, “Everyone saw you fall into sin. You can’t go to church because everybody will be gossiping about you.” Satan keeps speaking to you this way until you forget about the promises in the Bible. 1 John 2:1,2 says this, “But if anyone does sin, we have Jesus Christ to help us. He is the righteous one. He defends us before God the Father. Jesus is the way our sins are taken away.”

There are lots of divisions in the church today because Satan is causing hatred, fighting and unforgiving attitudes in the hearts of many Christians. He gives bad thoughts to Christians like, “These other Christians don’t care about you, why are you hanging around them.”

Satan does all he can to encourage gossip, criticism and bad feelings between Christians. We need to do all that we can to show acceptance, respect, and forgiveness toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. By doing this we can show Satan that we do not want him around.

## **The Snake**

In Genesis chapter 3 it tells us how Satan went into a snake to tempt Eve. In Revelation chapter 12:3 it talks about a giant red dragon. The Bible tells us that this is the same person as the snake that tempted Eve. “The giant dragon is that old snake called the devil or Satan. He leads the whole world the wrong way” (Rev 12:9). This dragon has seven

heads. Seven heads means that Satan is very clever. On each of the seven heads were ten horns. The horns mean that Satan has power. And also the seven heads have 7 crowns on them. The seven crowns mean that Satan has authority to rule over his chosen people. Satan is a deceiver who works hard to force people to follow him.

## **The destroyer**

Satan works to destroy this world and everything that God has made (Rev 9:11). At first Satan encourage Adam and Eve to sin, and now their sin has broken the harmony that was here at first. This harmony was broken in our relationships with God and with each other. Satan works very hard to spoil people's lives. He has been doing that up until now. Who do you think is causing the current breakdown in law and order; rascalism, violence, fighting, arguments, division, and hatred among people? Satan and his evil helpers.

The history of our planet is full of stories about terrible, cruel things that people have done to one another. These stories show us that people who are not Christians are servants of the cruel, evil destroyer. We Christians need to cry over people who are lost and we need to look for ways to rescue them. Satan is an evil madman who does not want to let them go. He wants to use them for his destructive purposes and then destroy them in the end. Our job as Christians is to rescue these people before it is too late. There should therefore be no Christians sitting around doing nothing. We need to work hard and work together at rescuing all the people we can.

## **Some names given to Satan**

In this chapter we have looked at some names given to Satan. By looking at these names we are able to know his tricks and evil deeds. Let us not be partners with him. Let's be partners with God and with the Lord Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit in this fight against our enemy. This fight is serious business so let us be serious about it.

### **3 SOME OF SATAN'S BEHAVIOUR**

In the beginning Satan was a very strong angel. God made him and gave him authority and he was a powerful angel in heaven. But one day he became disobedient. He no longer wanted to submit to God. He wanted to be the boss of everything. He was jealous of God's glory. This was very evil of him so God threw him down out of heaven. When Satan disobeyed God he also brought a lot of angels with him. Satan and his helpers are always fighting with God trying to destroy all that God has done.

We already looked at some of Satan's behaviour and tricks in the last chapter as we looked at his different names. Listed below are some of his names:

- The ruler of this world
- The ruler of the evil spirits
- The one who tempts us
- The one who accuses people
- The snake
- The destroyer

#### **Satan is very clever**

Satan is not as clever or smart as God, but he is much more clever than any of us. Satan also has great knowledge about what is happening on the earth.

Satan is not like God who sees the whole world at one glance. He cannot be every place at once so he moves around from place to place (Job 1:7). He also has plenty of workmen who report to him what they see. These are the fallen spirits who are Satan's helpers. This is how Satan is able to gain great knowledge.

Satan goes around deceiving many people and they fall into his trap (1 Tim 3:7). The Bible tells us to “Wear the full armour of God. Wear God’s armour so that you can fight against the devil’s evil tricks” (Eph 6:11).

## **Satan is burning with anger**

Satan is a very evil creature. There is nothing good about him. When Satan comes to live in someone, he does not care for him or respect him. Look up the story in Mark 5:1-20. Satan’s workmen were in that man and he was in a terrible state. He had lost his senses. He ran around naked. He slept at the graveyard. He was a madman. People tried to chain him up, but he would break the chains and run away. When Satan comes to live in a person and control his life, he ruins that person.

Satan has power to destroy us. “The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat” (1 Pet 5:8).

Lions are large dangerous animals that live in Africa. And its very true that lions kill and eat people. Satan is just the same as one of these large, dangerous animals that wants to kill and eat us.

Jesus said that Satan is like a thief who comes to steal and destroy people. “A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy” (Jn 10:10).

Satan knows that in a short while God is going to destroy him. That is why he is angry and at work everyday to hurt the people of God (Rev 12:12, 17).

If there is a team that is used to winning every game but now they are in the middle of a game that they are losing, they do not just give up. They play very hard and play with anger because they do not want the other team to beat them. Satan is just like that losing team. He saw that Jesus died and rose again and he knows that soon God is going to destroy him. So with the little time he has left Satan is fighting with anger and hate toward God.

## **Satan has power**

Satan has great power and we are frightened of him. But remember that Satan's power is not nearly as strong as God's power. "Who in heaven is equal to the Lord? None of the angels is like the Lord. When the holy ones meet, it is God they fear. He is more frightening than all who surround him" (Ps 89:6, 7). Satan is not equal to God. But he has much power than any of us. When we don't live close to God then we become Satan's slaves (Acts 26:18). It is only through Jesus that we can break Satan's power and go free.

## **Satan is a liar**

This is how Jesus describes Satan, "He is a liar, and he is like the lies he tells. He is the father of lies" (Jn 8:44). The reason why Satan tells lies is that he doesn't want us to know that he is evil. He also doesn't want us to experience the power of God and know what God is going to do with him in the future. Sometimes Satan comes to people pretending to be an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14).

## **Satan can go into people and take control of their minds**

The New Testament speaks about spirits that go into people and take control of their thoughts. Satan himself went into Judas to make him hand Jesus over to his enemies (Jn 13:27).

Even today Satan's workmen are going around looking for people whom they can go inside, take control of their minds and ruin their bodies. If someone is involved with sorcery or black magic or if anyone offers animals to the spirits of dead people they make it easy for Satan's workmen to come in and take control of their lives.

## **Satan is afraid of Jesus**

The one person that Satan is afraid of is Jesus Christ. Any man or woman who trusts in the name of Jesus can resist Satan. “Stand against the devil, and the devil will run away from you” (Jas 4:7). However, we can only resist him in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. Acts chapter 19 tells us of how some men were trying to drive away evil spirits. They tried to use Jesus’ name to make the spirits flee but these men were not true Christians. Instead of listening to these men and fleeing, the spirits went and chased the men away.

Satan is more clever and much stronger than any people are. But Jesus has already defeated Satan when he died and rose from the dead. By the power and authority of Jesus we can defeat Satan and stay strong.

## **Some of Satan’s behaviour**

In this chapter we have learned more about Satan’s behaviour.

1. Though Satan is stronger than us, God is much stronger than him.
2. Satan is very angry and fights very hard to overcome us.
3. Satan is very clever. But God has all the answers. He is much wiser than Satan.
4. Satan is going around lying and trying to deceive us.
5. Satan can go into people’s minds and control them if they let him.
6. Satan is afraid of Jesus. He knows that Jesus has already defeated him and there is no way that Satan can escape what God has in mind for him.

## 4 THE SPIRITS OF DEAD PEOPLE

In Papua New Guinea, as well as many other places, we think a lot about the spirits of people who have died. And we have seen spirits demonstrating their powers in doing all sorts of things.

### **They do all sorts of things**

At one place a man stole a large amount of money from another man. The people of the village wanted to find out who the thief was so they went to another place and saw a man who had power to speak to the spirits. He would ask questions and the spirits would make a bamboo move in answer to the questions. When he spoke to the bamboo, the bamboo moved to and fro and pulled the people toward the place where the thief was and they found the money.

In another place, they would stand a bamboo on a dead man's grave. One end of the bamboo was placed in the ground near the dead man's head. The other end was left sticking out of the ground. At night the people would go and put their ear against the bamboo and would wait to receive messages from the dead man like a telephone.

One day another man was hit by a car. They rushed him to the hospital but he was already dead. The relatives thought that they should go back to the place where the man got hit by the car and try to call his spirit. So they sent word to a man that knows how to go about it. When he came they set off together. They took a piece of pig meat and cooked it on the fire. They thought the smell of the meat would bring the dead man's spirit back. When it was starting to get dark the sorcery man quickly took some dirt and wrapped it in a leaf and they took it back to their village.

What does the Bible say about these things. Do the spirits of dead people go around doing these sort of thing or not? These many things that we see happening, is it the dead man's spirit that does them or is it one of Satan's helpers? Satan is the father of lies. We had better not let him trick us in these matters.

## **A story from the village**

Kapal's grandmother had died, and was buried in a couple of days ago. At midnight while asleep, Kapal thought that he heard a noise outside. He was listening carefully trying to figure out who could be outside. Then he heard someone calling his name, "Kapal", "Kapal". Kapal asked, "Who are you?" He thought he heard his grandmother's voice and he was very frightened. He asked what the person wanted, but did not get any clear reply. He was very worried about this.

In the morning a lady ran up to Kapal's house saying that she had seen his grandmother in the garden early in the morning. She called out to her but did not get any reply back. Now Kapal thought maybe it was his grandmother that had called him in the night and he was wondering what she had to tell him.

Kapal's relatives began to wonder why the grandmother was still around. There was a lot of talk going around. Some suggested that they should kill a pig and things will be alright. Others thought that she must be angry over something, and maybe she wanted all the relatives to get together and confess anything which they might have against her before they kill the pig.

Kapal also knew that his grandmother while still alive was a very good Christian woman. Now that she was dead, her spirit should have gone straight to heaven. Kapal was very worried and thought a lot about all this. Where was his grandmother now? Had she gone to heaven or was she still around?

## Think about this story

Think about this story. If you were Kapal's pastor or someone in his church, what would you say to him and his relatives? What does the Bible say? Does the Bible tell us where the spirits of dead people go? Before you go on, here are some questions that must be answered.

- Who called Kapal last night?
- Who did this other woman see in the garden?
- Where does the spirit of a dead person go when it leaves the body?
- Is it possible that the spirits of dead people come back to talk to us or not?

## What does the Bible say?

*Where does a person's spirit go when they die?*

There are many different stories that people tell about all this, but what does the Bible say?

Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Listen! What I say is true: today you will be with me in paradise! (Lk 23:43). We learn from this that the spirit of the thief on the cross did not wander around first. No, it went straight to heaven.

This is what Paul said about himself, "And even death would be profit for me ... I want to leave this life and be with Christ. That is much better" (Phil 1:21,23). He said again, "And we really want to be away from this body and be at home with the Lord" (2 Cor 5:8)

We see here that Paul was not afraid of dying. He knew that when he died he would go to heaven to be with the Lord Jesus. The Bible tells us clearly that when anyone who follows Jesus dies, they go to live with God in heaven.

*What about those who are not Christians?*

What will happen to them when they die? This is what the Bible says, “Everyone must die once. After the person dies, he is judged” (Heb 9:27).

Jesus had this to say about two people who died, “Later, Lazarus died. The angels took Lazarus and placed him in the arms of Abraham. The rich man died, too, and was buried. But he was sent to where the dead are and had much pain” (Lk 16:22, 23).

A person who dies without Jesus has no joy. Every dead person is in God’s hands and is judged. A dead man’s spirit does not hang around the house, in the graveyard, or on the mountain. No. When a man or woman dies their spirit goes straight to God to be judged. Jesus said, “I was dead, but look: I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and where the dead are” (Rev 1:18).

The dead are not free to wander around. They don’t live in the jungle or on the mountains waiting for lightning and thunder. They are not sleeping in the coffin in the graveyard. Not at all. When a child or man or woman dies, their spirits leave their bodies and go straight to God, then judges them and sends them to where they belong, either heaven or hell.

## **The lies of Satan**

The Bible states very clearly that the spirits of dead people go straight to God to be judged and then they are sent to where they belong. Think again about our story at the beginning of this chapter. Who was it that called Kapal in the night? Who was it that the woman saw in the garden? If it was not the spirit of his grandmother then who else could it have been?

These are very important questions for us as Christians to understand and know how to answer. In every village there are similar stories going around. Who is causing all of this?

Satan is a liar who goes around deceiving people. Satan is God's enemy and does not want us to worship God. He wants us to worship other false gods. Jesus said, "He is a liar, and he is like the lies he tells. He is the father of lies" (Jn 8:44).

Satan has evil spirits who work with him. So he splits the jobs up among them and tells them, You go and pretend to be the grandmother's spirit. Let us go and frighten Kapal and his family and relatives so that they will no longer worship the true God."

It was not Kapal's grandmother who called him in the night, or that was seen in the garden. No. It was one of Satan's workmen who was deceiving them.

The Bible states clearly that Satan tries to trick and blind people. "The devil who rules this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News – the Good News about the glory of Christ" (2 Cor 4:4). Satan goes around deceiving people, making them fear the spirits of the dead instead of giving themselves completely to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Is it alright for us to talk with the spirits of dead people?**

In the village the pig had gone missing. They wanted to know where the pig was so they went to this lady in the village whom they thought had the magic to find out where the pig was. In the night they went to her house. They sat down very quietly. Inside her house there wasn't any fire to give light. The woman breathed very heavily until she fell to the ground. After a while she woke up again and told them where the pig was.

God honestly hates the business of speaking to the spirits of the dead. Listen to some strong words God has to say to us.

"Do not go to mediums or fortune-tellers for advice. If you do, you will become unclean. I am the Lord your god" (Lev 19:31).

Don't let anyone among you offer his son or daughter as a sacrifice in the fire. Don't let anyone use magic or witchcraft. No one should try to explain the meaning of signs. Don't let anyone try to control others with magic. Don't let them be mediums or try to talk with the spirits of dead people. The Lord hates anyone who does these things" (Deut 18:10-12).

"Saul died because he was not faithful to the Lord. He did not obey the Lord. He even went to a medium and asked her for advice" (1 Chr 10:13).

"Some people say, 'Ask the mediums and fortune-tellers what to do.' But I tell you that people should ask their God for help. Why should people who are still alive ask something from the dead? You should follow the teachings and agreement with the Lord" ... (Is 8:19-20).

A medium is a person who tries to be in the *middle* between the living and the dead. They ask questions of the dead and give the answers back to the living.

Why is God not happy with the idea of calling on the spirits of the dead? The reason is that he is our only God and Father. He loves us and wants us to lead and guide our lives. He wants us to call out to him and follow him.

Those who call out to the spirits of the dead are really calling out to the evil spirits of Satan, and he deceives and ruin their lives.

## **The spirits of dead people**

Many of us are scared of the ancestral spirits and we do a lot of things for them. This is one reason why we are not strong in our faith. This could also be one reason why our churches are not strong. We are scared and double minded, we want to follow God but we cannot let go of our traditional beliefs. It is time for us to change. Let's be rid of our double minded thoughts and strive to follow God with our whole hearts. We will experience God's great power in our lives when we do this.

“With god’s power working in us, God can do much more than anything we can ask or think of” (Eph 3:20).

# 5 SORCERY AND EVIL POWERS

“Jesus became like men and died so that he could free them. They were like slaves all their lives because of their fear of death” (Heb 2:15).

Many people are afraid of the secret murders committed by sorcerers. If a young person or even an old person dies in the village, people automatically think that “he has been murdered by a sorcerer.” Some would then spend the night with their bow and arrows at the grave yard watching out in case a sorcerer comes.

## Some stories

At a certain village there was a father and mother who got sick and quickly died. The people of that village then told the children of that family to leave the village. They told them if they stayed they also would die and perhaps other people in the village would die too. So the children were chased out of their own village.

One day two men had an argument over a garden that had been broken into by a pig. The owner of the garden asked the owner of the pig to pay some compensation for the food that the pig had eaten. The owner of the pig did not want to give him anything. Therefore the owner of the garden said, “If you don’t pay me I am going to use sorcery and will die.” That really scared the owner of the pig.

There was a pastor who went to another village to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some months later, he was told a story by someone that went like this. “In the past, your great grandfather killed the headman of this village. Therefore, the people here are planning to perform sorcery on you. You must leave this place quickly, if you don’t you will die.” What do you think this pastor should do?

## Consider these things

I guess you have heard stories similar to these ones and probably many more. Many times you will see people sitting down telling all sorts of stories about sorcerers or a person with a snake or cassowary or cuscus in their stomach which makes to make them do this or look or act like that. As they continue to tell such stories they begin to have fear that really imprison them.

- What should we as Christians say about these stories?
- Is the power of the sorcerer effective or not?
- What does the Bible say about all this?

## Satan has power

When Moses went to see the king of Egypt to let the children of Israel go, the king refused to listen. However, Moses threw his stick on the ground and it turned into a snake. The King of Egypt called in some sorcerers and they also threw down their sticks which then turned into snakes (Ex 7:11). Moses then hit the Nile river with his stick and it turned into blood. The sorcerers also did the same and the river turned into blood. These words from the Bible show us that Satan has power. In the end the sorcerers couldn't do anymore of the miracles that Moses was performing, so they said, "The power of God has done this" (Ex 8:19).

In the New Testament, it tells us a story about Simon, a man who practiced sorcery and magic and many people followed him (Acts 8:9-11). In Acts chapter 13:6-12 it tells us another story about a man called Elymas, he also practiced sorcery and magic and he did not want the government leaders to learn about Jesus. Lets look at what Paul said to him in Acts 13:10-11, "You son of the devil! You are an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of evil tricks and lies. You are always trying to change the Lord's truth into lies! Now the Lord will touch you, and you will be blind."

It's true. Satan has power. But in the stories we have just read it tells us that God's power is much stronger than Satan's.

## **Satan tells lies**

“He was a murderer from the beginning. He was against the truth, for there is no truth in him. He is a liar ... He is the father of lies” (Jn 8:44).

Satan has power to kill people. Those who have a close relationship with Satan can practice sorcery or magic charms and make people sick and even die. However, if we are in the family of God and live close to God then he will protect us from Satan's arrows. He is able to do this because God's power is much greater than any evil power.

Satan is a liar. Satan encourages people to tell stories about sorcery because he wants people to praise him. He wanted to take over God's glory in heaven, so was thrown out. Today he is still hungry for power, so when people sit down and tell stories about sorcery or anything to do with him he is very happy. He loves to be made famous. Hebrews 2:15 tells us that people are afraid to die and this imprisons them. Satan is happy when people sit down and talk about sorcery because these stories frighten them. Some of these stories are true but many are false stories.

We know that Satan has power, but he is also a liar. He wants people to praise his name and scare other people through these stories so that they would live under his authority.

## **God's power is greater than the power of Sorcery**

Christians are not living under Satan's authority anymore. We are God's children and he looks after us.

Jesus, the good Shepherd of the sheep, said this, “I give them eternal life, and they will never die. And no person can steal them out of my

hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father's hand" (Jn 10:29).

You can rejoice when you belong to God, nothing can take you away from him. Satan is not able to destroy you.

Lets look at some of God's promises.

"No tricks will work on the people of Jacob. No magic works against Israel" (Num 23:23).

"Those who go to God Most High for safety will be protected by God All-Powerful. I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety and protection. You are my God, and I trust you." God will save you from hidden traps and from deadly diseases. He will protect you like a bird spreading its wings over its young. His truth will be like your armour and shield. You will not fear any danger by night or an arrow during the day" (Ps 91:1-5).

God's power is great enough to overthrow the evil powers of Satan.

## **Here are some hints to help us defeat Satan**

1. If you see people telling stories about sorcery, tell them: "We better not tell such stories because this brings praise to Satan. This sort of story scares us and makes us become Satan's prisoners." Show them some Bible stories of how Jesus cast out evil spirits. You can read Psalm 91 or another passage that speaks of the power of God.

2. When it is time to go to sleep, pray and put your family under God's protection for the night so that their lives can be protected in the hands of God.

3. If a man or a woman is very sick and others come and tell them that a sorcerer has been to visit them and they will die, this talk makes them weak and leaves them with no hope for getting well. All they want to do is die. If you were there what would you do to help them?

Tell them the promise of God

- “So you have defeated them because God’s spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world” (1Jn 4:40).
- “The Son of God came for this purpose: to destroy the devil’s work” (1Jn 3:8).
- “No tricks will work on the people of Jacob. No magic works against Israel” (Num 23:23).

Tell that person that the power of Jesus Christ is stronger than Satan’s power.

Pray with them claiming the protecting of God over them and the blood of Jesus Christ that is able to drive away the power of Satan in their lives.

4. Keep this in mind, that the power of Christ is much stronger than Satan’s power.

“But in all these things we have full victory through God who showed his love for us. Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from the love of God has for us. Not death, not life, not angels, not ruling spirits, nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us, nothing below us, or anything else in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:37-39).

## 6 MAGIC AND CHARMS

You will hear some people say, “Sorcery is a very bad thing that comes from Satan, but this old man in the village is a good man who uses good stuff to cure those who are sick. He is not doing anything that is bad. He is a good man and helps us.”

At one stage I heard a Christian say, “God gave us magic and charms to help us here in the village. There is nothing wrong with them. God gave wisdom to our ancestors to do these things so we must still hold on to them.”

What should we say about this? Are magic and charms good or bad?

### **What does the Bible say?**

“Don’t let anyone use magic or witchcraft. No one should try to explain the meaning of signs. Don’t let anyone try to control others with magic. Don’t let them be mediums or try to talk with the spirits of dead people. The Lord hates anyone who does these things” (Deut 18:10-12).

The Lord said to the people of Israel, You will no longer will be able to do witchcraft. You will not have anyone who can tell the future” (Mic 5:12).

“The wrong things the sinful self does are clear ... worshipping false gods, doing witchcraft ... Those who do these things will not be in God’s kingdom” (Gal 5:19-21).

“But those ... who do evil magic, who worship idols, and who tells lies – all these will have a place in the lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death” (Rev 21:8).

The Bible is very clear about all these things. We see here that God is really against these evil practices.

The sorcerers steal a lot of money from people by lying to them. They trick people by putting a little stone or betel nut or bottle in their mouth and say that they have taken it out from the sick person. This way they lie to people. Some of their powers are true but they do not come from God. They are using Satan's power.

The Bible says that in the last days, "The Man of Evil will come by the power of Satan. He will have great power, and he will do many different false miracles, signs and wonders" (2 Thes 2:9). So let us watch out that we are not also deceived.

## **Village medicine**

Magic charms and village medicine are two different things. We Christians have a job to do to find out which is magic charm and which is village medicine. As we have previously mentioned, magic charms are not good for us as Christians and we must leave it all behind. But village medicine may be alright to use.

How can we know whether something is magic charms or village medicine?

There are two signs we can look for to find out whether a practice is magic or not. If one of these signs appears then we Christians must not use it.

Here are the two signs of magic:

1. If a person speaks secret words to get power then that is magic. If someone is ill and calls for someone to come and do village medicine and the person giving him the medicine has to say some secret words to strengthen the medicine, then that is magic.

2. If in the village only a few people know how to do a certain thing then that is magic. Village medicine is something that should be known by many people in the village, otherwise it is magic.

These two things are signs of magic. When anyone is going to be treated with village medicine then we must look out for these two signs. We must ask God for wisdom to be able to know what is good and what

is not. This is what you should ask God, “God, if this does not come from you then I don’t want to use it. But if this is from you then I will use it.” After praying like this and you feel in your heart that it does not come from God then let go of it and do not use it.

## Some guidance

1. Christians must not at any time seek assistance from a man or woman who practices either sorcery or magic. We must not keep charms for looking after pigs or making food in the garden grow well or to cure any sickness or to protect the house. God wants us to trust HIM in everything. If you are a Christian and are making a garden then you must pray to God to bless the garden and make the food grow.

Let’s ask God to look after our pigs. And please do not kill your pigs and offer them to the spirits from the bush (eg. Stone, tree, stream). God is the Father and the Creator of all these things, and he wants to help us. The Bible says, “Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you” (1 Pet 5:7).

When building a new house, we should never use magic or hide any charms in the house for protection. The Bible says, “The Lord saves those who fear him. His angels camp around them” (Ps 34:7). If you think that this magic will help you, then you are not obedient to the Lord and his angels will not keep watch over you. If you are a Christian and building a house, what you should do is ask some Christians to come and pray with you to dedicate your house to God, and ask his blessing upon the house and those who come to the house.

2. Christians should not go to those who practice sorcery and magic when they are sick. The Bible says, “If one of you is sick, he should call the church’s elders. The elders should pour oil on him in the name of the Lord and pray for him. And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will heal him. And if he has sinned, God will forgive him” (Jas 5:14-15). We Christians must always go to God

when we are sick. Because he is our Father, and wants us to bring all our worries to him, for he cares for us.

3. How can we break the powers of sorcery and magic? Here is a story to think about. In the village was a pretty young woman and her parents wanted her to marry a good and mature Christian man. However, in the village was a married man who wanted to marry her as his second wife. He used some love charms on her to make her like him. Everyday that young woman thought and dreamed of marrying him. Some even told her, "That man has practiced some love charms and sorcery on you, if you don't marry him you will die." What should that young woman do?

God has power greater than any love charms or sorcery. So what we must do for that young woman is pray that God's power can break down Satan's power of love charms and sorcery. Pray that the blood of Jesus Christ may protect her so that Satan will not be able to affect her. Share with her some verses from the Bible to strengthen her faith so that she can be free from the deceiving power of Satan.

Encourage the young woman to say these words, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I now resist any Satanic powers from working in my life. I have made an agreement with Jesus Christ and I am living under the protection of his blood. Satan has no power over my life because I have been bought by the blood of Jesus on the cross and now I am god's child."

In this way we can break down the evil powers of darkness such as sorcery and magic. Jesus has won the victory on the cross so we also can defeat Satan in his name.

4. When we repent and accept Jesus Christ, then we must throw away any evil practices we did before. We must have nothing to do with the evil powers of Satan. We must do what the Christians at Ephesus did.

"Many of the believers began to confess openly and tell all the evil things they had done. Some of them had used magic. These believers

brought their magic books and burned them before everyone. Those books were worth about 50,000 silver coins. So in a powerful way the word of the Lord kept spreading and growing” (Acts 19:18-20).

When we turn to the Lord, we must not keep any Satanic powers of any sort in our homes or even give them to other people. No! We must burn them all.

# 7 JESUS OVERCAME SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS

Jesus came down to this earth to destroy the works of Satan. The whole time that Jesus was here, Satan was on his feet fighting very hard to defeat Jesus. If Jesus had sinned there would have been no one left to help us. Satan knew this so he tried his very best to defeat Jesus.

## **When He was a Child**

When Jesus was a child, King Herod tried to kill him. We see in Revelation chapter 12 a parable showing us that Satan was responsible for this terrible thing.

“The dragon stood in front of the woman who was ready to give birth to a baby. He wanted to eat the woman’s baby as soon as it was born. The woman gave birth to a son. He will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. But her child was taken up” (Rev 12:4-5).

Satan couldn’t kill Jesus when he was a child. So he was trying very hard to ruin him when he was a man.

## **After He was baptized**

Read the story of Satan tempting Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. Here are some main points in this story.

### *1. TELL THE STONE TO BECOME BREAD*

Jesus was hungry, and Satan wanted Jesus to satisfy his hunger by using his power to tell stones to become bread. But Jesus knew that the first priority must be given to the spiritual part of life and not the flesh. So he said, “A person does not, live only by eating bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says” (Mt 4:4).

At another time Jesus did a miracle by feeding 4000 and 5000 people with the little food they had. By the way, Jesus did not use this power to please himself, but he had come to do the will of the Father. Jesus said, “My food is to do what the One who sent me wants me to do. My food is to finish the work that he gave me to do” (Jn 4:34).

Satan also tempts us by making us think of ourselves first. But let us come humbly before God and do as Jesus did.

## *2. JUMP DOWN*

Jesus showed us in the first temptation that his faith in God was firm. In this second temptation Satan took Jesus up on the temple and told him to jump down. The temple was very high, about 100 meters above the ground. If Jesus jumped down and died this would be the end of him and Satan would have won.

Jesus knew this was not the way God had planned to bring his people back to himself. Because if he jumped down and did not get hurt, people would gather around him and believe in him, but this kind of faith would only last for a short time.

God had chosen Jesus to die on the cross in order to bring his people back to him. Jesus said, “I will be lifted up from the earth. And when this happens, I will draw all people toward me” (Jn 12:32). When Jesus said that he will be lifted up, he did not mean being lifted up to heaven. Rather he speaks about being lifted up on a cross just like Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness (Jn 3:14).

Jesus knew that God did not tell him to jump down from the Temple. If Jesus had jumped down he would have disobeyed God, and this would be sin against God.

## *3. BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP*

In the beginning Satan was jealous of God’s glory and power. Now he wanted to make Jesus jealous. He took Jesus around and showed him the kingdom and riches of this world, and said to Jesus, “If you bow down and worship me, then I will give you all these things.” However, Jesus

did not listen to Satan's sweet talk. He said to him, "Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only Him!'" (Mt 4:10).

Today we see that Satan is using the same temptation on us. He makes us desire all the things of this world such as money, clothes and other material things. Some have gone astray by making those things take place of worshipping God. Let's see what the Bible has to say.

"Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. These are the evil things in the world: wanting the sinful things we see, being too proud of the things we have. But none of those things comes from the Father. All of them come from the world" (1 Jn 2:15-16).

We must follow Jesus' example. "Stand against the devil, and the devil will run away from you" (Jas 4:7).

## **When Jesus travelled**

Satan tempted Jesus in these three strong ways but Jesus did not sin. The Bible says that Satan left Jesus and was waiting for another time to tempt him.

Satan was also using Jesus' brothers to tempt him. His brothers did not believe that God had sent him so they said all sorts of things against him. "Even Jesus' brothers did not believe in him" (John 7:5).

Satan also used his disciples by making them ignorant of what Jesus tried to teach them. One day Jesus' disciples tried to drive an evil spirit out of a child, but they couldn't. Later the father of the child went and told Jesus. Jesus was cross with his disciples saying to them. "How long must I stay with you? How long must I continue to be patient with you? Bring the boy here" (Mt 17:17).

One day Jesus was telling his disciples that he would die on the cross. Satan took this opportunity and used Peter to get very cross with Jesus. Jesus said to Peter, "Go away from me, Satan! You are not helping me!

You don't care about the things of God. You care only about things that men think are important" (Mt 16:23).

## **When Jesus was about to die**

After the Lord's supper in the upper room, Jesus went out to the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples to pray. In the garden he went through a very difficult temptation. So he said to his disciples, "Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation" (Mt 26:41). Jesus was thinking of the things that were about to happen to him in the night and in the morning. He was thinking of how they would take him to court, beat him and kill him, and he was troubled about it all. "Jesus was full of pain; he prayed even more. Sweat dripped from his face as if he were bleeding" (Lk 22:44).

God had chosen Jesus to die (Rom 3:25). If Jesus had disobeyed God, we would have been lost forever in the hands of Satan. There would be no way for us to have our sins forgiven. Satan knew that everyone is afraid of dying, so he wanted Jesus to try and escape going to the cross. Jesus prayed, and in his prayer he won the fight against Satan. He said, "Father ... do what you want, not what I want" (Lk 22:42). Jesus was firm in his prayer of disobedience and he strengthened his heart to go all the way to death on the cross. Through his obedience Jesus defeated Satan.

## **Jesus overcame Satan's temptations**

When Jesus was still on this earth, Satan tried his best in every way possible to hurt and tempt him, but Jesus went all the way to the cross without being hurt or sinning. Satan knew that Jesus, while on this earth, had flesh like us and had the experience of being hungry, feeling pain and also joy. So Satan knew that this was a good time to destroy the work God was doing. Satan tried his best in every way but was well and truly defeated by Jesus. "When he lived on earth, he was tempted in

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every way that we are, but he did not sin” (Heb 4:15). Jesus won the victory. He defeated Satan and all his temptations.

## **8 JESUS HAS WON THE VICTORY ON THE CROSS**

Jesus was chosen by God to die (Rom 3:25). In the Old Testament, prophet Isaiah said “But he was wounded for the wrong things we did. He was crushed for the evil things we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him. And we are healed because of his wounds. ... Men was put to death. He was punished for the sins of my people” (Is 53:5,8).

Jesus knew those words were written about him and his death on the cross, but Satan tried his very best to convince Jesus to avoid the cross.

### **Satan wanted to kill Jesus**

Satan knew that Jesus was God’s son and was looking for ways to kill him. When Jesus was a child Satan tried to use King Herod to have Jesus killed. But god sent an angel to tell Joseph that he must take Jesus and Mary to Egypt.

When Satan tempted Jesus, he took him to the highest part of the temple and told him to jump down. The height of that temple was 100 meters off the ground. Satan would have been more happy if Jesus had jumped and hurt himself.

Jesus started his ministry of preaching the Good News in Nazareth. But the people of Nazareth did not believe that Jesus was the son of God. At one stage they tried to throw Jesus down the mountain and kill him, but Jesus walked among them without being harmed.

At another time, after many days of preaching and healing the sick Jesus was very tired. He went into Peter’s boat and was fast asleep when

a huge storm came and nearly overturned the boat. Peter was a fisherman and for many years had fished in these waters. He was very frightened and called out to Jesus for help. Jesus got up and told the wind and the sea to be calm. Some people think that Satan was in that storm trying to kill Jesus, but without success.

There were many situations where Jesus could have been killed, but he overcame them all. John said, “The people tried to take him. But no one was able to touch him. It was not yet the right time” (Jn 7:30). Satan looked for ways to hurt Jesus and stop him from completing the work of his Father had for him to do, but in all this, God has the last words to say. God alone has the final say in what happens to our lives.

Jesus had to go to the cross at that particular time because that was the time marked by God. In his prayer in John 17:1 Jesus said, “Father, the time has come.” After saying the prayer he left the house and went to the Garden of Gethsemane.

## **Jesus obeyed God all the way to death**

Satan tried to convince Jesus to turn away from the cross. Satan told Jesus that if he would bow down and worship him he would give him all the kingdoms of this world. But Jesus said, “Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, “You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!” (Mt 4:10).

The people were amazed to see the miracle in which Jesus took just 5 loaves of bread and two fish and fed a crowd of 5000. They were so excited that they wanted to make him their king. After feeding them he sent the crowd and the disciples away. The disciples took a boat to the other side of the lake and he went up to a mountain top alone. He prayed until midnight. This reaction of the crowd was a temptation by Satan to try and make Jesus find an easy way to become king. But Jesus knew that this was not the way God had for him. So when he went and prayed, with God’s strength he was able to overcome the temptation.

One day Jesus started to tell the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, and be killed. Peter was shocked with Jesus' words and criticized him saying, "God save you from those things, Lord! Those things will never happen to you!" Then Jesus said to Peter, 'go away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don't care about the things of God. You care only about things that men think are important'" (Mt 16:21-23). Jesus knew that Satan wanted him to give up from going to the cross.

Jesus knew that to die on the cross is a shameful thing. He was a young man like any other young man who would not like to die. He knew all the mockery and the suffering that he would have to go through before he was nailed to the cross. All these thoughts of giving up from going to the cross came to him very strongly at the garden of Gethsemane.

On top of all this suffering there was even a greater problem Jesus had to face. Jesus had to bear all our sins on the cross. And that load was more unbearable than the others. However, Jesus always did what his father wanted. God was always pleased with him. But now he was to bear our sins. Jesus saw that all he was going to face was too much for him, so at the garden of Gethsemane he fell to his knees and prayed earnestly that if there was a way out he wanted to let this suffering pass by him. This is what he prayed, "Abba, Father! You can do all these things. Let me not have this cup of suffering. But do what you want, not what I want" (Mk 14:36). As far as we know this was the biggest temptation he went through. His disciples were asleep and he was alone. The Bible tells us that in that hour of prayer his sweat ran down like blood. However, Jesus gained strength through his prayer, by putting off the desire of giving up the cross he was ready to do his Father's will.

Satan's great desire was to make Jesus disobey God. While hanging on the cross, the temptation to escape the cross came again and again to him. At the crucifixion ground were some leading priests and the teachers of the law, they said, "If he is really the Christ ... then let him

come down from the cross now. We will see this, and then we will believe in him” (Mk 15:32). The soldiers who nailed Jesus on the cross also said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!” (Lk 23:37). And also one of the thieves who was also on the cross said, “Aren’t you the Christ? Then save yourself! And save us too!” (Lk 23:39). When Jesus said “It is finished,” he knew that he had won the victory over Satan. He had done his Father’s will without sinning.

If Jesus had disobeyed God and turned away from the cross, he wouldn’t be able to help us today and we would all be lost in the hands of Satan. There would be no way to have our sins forgiven. Because Satan knew that everybody is afraid of dying, his aim was to cause Jesus to turn away from dying on the cross. But at the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed and right there he won the fight. Jesus determined to do his Father’s will until he died. Through his obedience, Jesus defeated Satan.

## **Jesus defeated Satan at the place where dead people are**

When Jesus died, his body went to the grave, but his spirit went to the home of the dead. We don’t know all that happened during that time, but the Bible says, “And in the spirit he went and preached to the spirits in prison” (1 Peter 3:19). That prison belongs to the dead. Jesus did not go down there to preach to the dead so that they would repent, rather, he went there to tell them that he had defeated Satan. God said in the Garden of Eden that a child born to a woman would stand on the serpent’s head and would himself be bitten on the leg (Gen 3:15). When Jesus went down to the place of the dead, it tells us that he had already stood on the serpent’s head. Jesus was not the prisoner down there. Not at all! Because Jesus had never sinned, Satan had no power to hold him. Jesus rose from the dead and “Now Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God’s right side. He rules over angels, authorities, and powers” (1 Pet 3:22).

Paul said, “When it says, ‘He went up,’ what does it mean? It means that he first came down to the earth. And he is the same One who went up. He went up above all the heavens to fill everything with himself” (Eph 4:9-10).

We can rejoice! Jesus has won the battle against Satan. He won both on earth and in the place of the dead. Now He is sitting on the throne and is the King of heaven and earth. Jesus has won, and there is not one place available for Satan to rule. The Bible says, “That power is the same as the great strength God used to raise Christ from death and put him at his right side in heaven. God made Christ more important than all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings. Christ is more important than anything in this world or in the next world” (Eph 1:20-21).

The wages of sin is death. But Jesus did not sin and there was no way Satan could hold Jesus in the place of the dead. Jesus had defeated Satan and now he says, “I was dead, but look: I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and where the dead are” (Rev 1:18). Before he was taken up to heaven he said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world ...” (Mt 28:18-19).

Let us give glory and honour to God. We have Good News to tell the people of the world. Here are some main points of this Good News:

- Jesus has already defeated Satan.
- Jesus won the victory over evil spirits.
- Jesus overcame sin.
- Jesus overcame death.
- Jesus overcame the grave.
- Jesus overcame the powers of the stronghold of hell.

## **Jesus bore the sins of all mankind**

Jesus obeyed and did his Father’s will all the way to the cross and in this way he defeated Satan. We all have sinned and are required to ap-

pear before the judgement of God. Who is worthy to help us? Hallelujah. When Jesus died he carried away all our sins, and now through him we too can overcome the power of sin and Satan.

“Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right” (1 Pet 2:24).

When Jesus went to the cross he carried the sin and shame of all the people of this world. “Christ had no sin. But God made him become sin” (2 Cor 5:21). In this way Jesus defeated Satan.

We have already looked at one of Satan’s names, and that is “the accuser.” Since Jesus carried all our sins the Bible says, “So now, those who are in Christ Jesus are not judged guilty” (Rom 8:1). Jesus has taken away the sins of those who have repented and believed on him, so Satan has no right to accuse us anymore.

“Who can accuse the people that God has chosen? No one! God is the One who makes them right. Who can say that God’s people are guilty? No one! Christ Jesus died, but now he is on God’s right side and is begging God for us” (Rom 8:33-34).

## **Jesus overcame death**

There is one big thing in this world that everyone on the face of the earth is afraid of, and that is death. However, the Bible says that, “Jesus became like men and died so that he could free them. They were like slaves all their lives because of their fear of death” (Heb 2:15).

When Jesus died and rose again from the dead he overcame the power of death. Jesus had raised people like Lazarus from the dead, but later they died again. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ was very different “Christ was raised from death. And we know that he cannot die again. Death has no power over him now” (Rom 6:9).

Because Jesus rose from death, we are also going to be raised from death. Death cannot hurt us Christians. Not at all. Death is like opening a door for us to enter into the joys of our Lord. So we can all rejoice and

say: “Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your power to hurt.’ Death’s power to hurt us is sin. The power of sin is the law. But we thank God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:55-57).

## **Jesus won the victory on the cross**

Listen carefully to what the words in Colossians 2:14-15 have to say to us, “We owed a debt because we broke God’s laws. That debt listed all the rules we failed to follow. But God forgave us that debt. He took away that debt and nailed it to the cross. God defeated the spiritual rulers and powers. With the cross God won the victory and defeated them. He showed the world that they were powerless.” There is no doubt about it, Jesus has won the victory on the cross. If we build our foundation on the Lord Jesus Christ, Satan and his workman have no authority to take charge and frighten us. No. **They have become powerless.**

# 9 GOD'S ARMY CAN DEFEAT SATAN'S ARMY

Those who are not living under the leadership of Jesus Christ are automatically in the hands of Satan. Satan has power to control people, but we would like to know, where did he get this authority from? Who gave it to him? Did God give it to him or did he get it by his own strength? What do you think?

## **Where did Satan get his power from?**

When God made the earth, Satan was not given the right to control any part of it. Only Adam and Eve were given authority. God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen 1:28).

When Satan came to deceive Adam and Eve, he did not come like a powerful angel. Rather, he went into a snake, an ordinary animal. God said to Adam and Eve, "Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen 1:28). They had the right to tell the snake to shut up, but they did not do that. They obeyed Satan and disobeyed God.

It was because of the sin of Adam and Eve that Satan was able to gain power to take control of the world. "The Evil One controls the whole world" (1 Jn 5:19). We should feel very sad over this fact.

## **God does not want to let him stay in control**

God gave authority to our first parents (Adam and Eve) however they threw that authority away and Satan took it. Then Satan took control over everything on the earth including us. Starting from the time Adam sinned until today, God has never wanted us to live in the hands of Satan. He loves us and wants to help us. However, it is our own sin that has brought trouble upon us.

We read in the Old Testament that God was calling out to the people of Israel and other nations to leave Satan's kingdom and come into his family.

Then God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, who came down to destroy the works of Satan. Jesus came in order to open a way for us to leave the hands of our enemy and become God's own children.

"The devil has been sinning since the beginning. Anyone who continues to sin belongs to the devil. The Son of God came for this purpose: to destroy the devil's work. When God makes someone his child, that person does not go on sinning. The new life God gave that person stays in him. So he is not able to go on sinning, because he has become a child of God" (1 Jn 3:8-9).

## **The way has been opened for people to go free**

In Acts chapter 1, there were only a few people following Jesus. We read later that the Apostle worked very hard to preach the Good News so that thousands of people came into the family of God.

"God's message continued to spread and reach more and more people" (Acts 12:24).

"So the churches became stronger in the faith and grew larger every day" (Acts 16:5).

From the time of the Apostles up until today, God uses people who preach his word. With his spirit he convicts the hearts of those who open their ears and receive Jesus into their lives. There are a number of good things that happen whenever a person comes to the Lord. Here are three of them.

1. There is joy before God and his angels (Lk 15:10).
2. The number of Satan's people decreases (Col 1:13).
3. The number of God's people increases (Col 1:13).

Preaching the word of God is a very important work. "That is why I want so much to preach the Good News ... I am proud of the Good News. It is the power God uses to save everyone who believes" (Rom 1:15,16). The people of God are able to defeat Satan's forces through the preaching of the Gospel.

## **The army of God can defeat the army of Satan**

We are in a great battle. We cannot overcome Satan with our own strength. But God is with us.

"Everyone who is a child of God has the power to win against the world" (1 Jn 5:4).

We know that anyone who is God's child does not continue to sin. The Son of God keeps him safe, and the Evil One cannot hurt him" (Rom 16:20).

God has given us everything we need to win this fight. Let us thank God and work hard for him. We have God's protection over us and there is no way Satan can touch or hurt us. We can rejoice about that. Let us fight strong, realizing that the army of God can defeat the army of Satan.

# 10 WE MUST PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD

“So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the protection of right living. And on your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. And also use the shield of faith. With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. Accept God’s salvation to be your helmet. And take the sword of the Spirit – that sword is the teaching of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times” (Eph 6:14-18).

## **What is this armour that we are supposed to wear?**

In the time of Paul, the Roman army and other armies wore special clothes called armour when they fought. This armour helped protect the soldiers from their enemies’ weapons. This way they could go right into the battle and not be too afraid.

We Christians also must put on armour to help us stand against Satan so that we do not get hurt.

## **Wear the belt of truth**

Satan is the father of all lies (Jn 8:44). Jesus is the truth (Jn 14:6). If we want to defeat Satan then we need to turn away from all types of lying and deception.

Some people tell lies to cover up their bad behaviour and the bad behaviour of their relatives. This sort of practice must stop.

Some people lie when they tell stories. They want to make their stories more interesting so they make things up and tell stories as if they were true.

Some think that small lies are okay. This is not true. If we want to defeat Satan then we must turn right away from all types of lying.

## **Wear the protection of right living on your chest**

A chest plate is an important thing for a soldier because it protects his heart and lungs and stomach from getting hurt. Right living is also important for us as Christians to hold close to our hearts to prevent us from getting hurt from arrows shot at us by Satan.

Do not think that small sins are okay and not worth thinking about. God has called us to live a life that is clean and holy. In order to live a clean and holy life, we are to wear the chest plate of right living as our clothes every day.

“The “night” is almost finished. The “day” is almost here. So we should stop doing things that belong to darkness and take up the weapons used for fighting in the light. Let us live in a right way, like people who belong to the day. We should not have wild parties or get drunk. There should be no sexual sins of any kind, no fighting or jealousy. But clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. Forget about satisfying your sinful self” (Rom 13:12-14).

There are times when Satan comes to us and says, “That is alright, go ahead and do it because no one knows about it.” Be careful. That is Satan’s lie. What he wants you to do is to take off that chest plate. Sometimes church leaders who are doing the work of God fall into sin because they did hold onto the armour of right living, and Satan easily overcomes them.

## **Be prepared to preach the Good News of peace**

The main message of the Good News is: Jesus died to bring peace between God and man. If we live in peace with God we will also live in peace with our brothers. Satan does not want us to live in peace with one another, so he is always at work trying to break this peace and unity. In Acts chapter 6 we see how he had made two groups become divided, Hebrews to one side and the Greeks to another. If there is an argument and division between Christians then there is no way we can work together to fight against Satan. So let us work hard to keep that peace.

Jesus prayed for this. “Holy Father, keep them safe ... so that they will be one, the same as you and I are one” (Jn 17:11). If we do not have peace with our brothers then there is no way for us to either preach the Good News or bring others to Christ. And also it would be easy for Satan to twist us around. Paul says here that, “when you are hungry, do not sin. And do not go on being angry all day. Do not give the devil a way to defeat you” (Eph 4:26-27).

If you don't let go of your anger and bad feelings in your life then there is no way you will have peace. But if you let them go you will have the peace of God over you and you will be able to defeat Satan. The Bible says, “The God who brings peace will soon defeat Satan and give you power over him” (Rom 16:20).

## **Use faith as your shield**

“And also use the shield of faith. With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One” (Eph 6:16).

Let us be strong in our faith in the Lord. There will be times when you face temptations, divisions and trouble. In such times hold on to the faith you profess. God will protect you in his hands and there is no way Satan will hurt you.

“I love you, Lord. You are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my protection, my Saviour. My God is my rock. I can run to him for safety. He

is my shield and my saving strength, my high tower. I will call to the Lord. He is worthy of praise. And I will be saved from my enemies” (Ps 18:1-3).

David had strong faith in God, and this gave him great strength. This is why he was praising God. Satan has many spears that he wants to throw at us. Before he throws he lights them on fire. He lights his spears on fire so that when he throws them at us he wants them first to kill us, he then wants them to burn down our houses and destroy our families.

Satan is working very hard to overcome God’s word in order to weaken our faith. However we must hold on to our faith and resist Satan’s lies.

Some of Satan’s spears are aimed to frighten us. “The devil is our enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat” (1 Pet 5:8). You can hear the roaring of a lion from faraway, and people get really frightened of them. So Satan is going around doing the same, he frightens us and makes us worry a lot. Again, we must hold on to our faith and share it with others.

“And our brothers defeated him by the blood of the lamb’s death and by the truth they preached. They did not live their lives so much that they preached. They did not love their lives so much that they were afraid of death” (Rev 12:11). We must not feel ashamed to share our faith, we can say with confidence, “Jesus has bought me with his blood. Satan, I am no longer on your side, and you have no right to threaten or deceive me. I am firmly glued to the Lord Jesus Christ.” In this way we hold on to our faith and resist Satan’s arrows that come with fire.

## **Accept God’s Salvation to be your helmet**

“Accept god’s Salvation to be your helmet” (Eph 6:17). An important piece of armour is the helmet of God’s Salvation because it protects

your head from the enemy's shots. We must keep in mind these words when we are fighting against Satan. "Jesus paid a great price for me."

You must say no to Satan when he comes to tempt you and tell him, "Jesus paid a great price for me." When our friends or relatives try and persuade us to do wrong we must say "No way. Jesus paid a great price for me!"

We have not become Christians on our own strength. We are on God's side because Jesus has redeemed us by his blood.

We must be glad and give thanks to God for the work Jesus has done on the cross for us. This must be kept in mind in order to stand firm and defeat Satan.

## **Put on the armour everyday**

"You need to get God's full armour. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing" (Eph 6:13).

Every time soldiers went out to fight they would wear their armour. We must do the same thing, wearing our armour every day. To be able to defeat Satan we must search and weigh our lives and give this armour their rightful place in our lives.

## **We must put on all the armour**

- Truth must be used as our belt.
- Right living needs to become our chestplate.
- Being prepared to preach the Good News is our shoes.
- Faith is our shield.
- Accepting God's salvation is our helmet.

God has provided us with all this armour in order to keep Satan from harming us. There are other weapons available for us as well which enable us to defeat Satan. We will now look at some of these weapons that we can use to defeat Satan.

# 11 OUR WEAPONS FOR FIGHTING

We are told to put on God's armour so that Satan cannot harm us. Satan cannot defeat us when we have this armour. We must keep alert each day with our armour on and ready to fight against Satan. We must be on our feet and fight very hard to chase Satan away in order to bring back the people who are still imprisoned by him. God has given us some weapons in addition to enable us to fight and break down Satan's stronghold.

"We do live in the world. But we do not fight in the same way that the world fights. We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God. These weapons can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy men's arguments" (2 Cor 10:3,4).

We don't fight against Satan with our own strength. Not at all. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit we are able to fight against the spirit of this world. God has given to us some very strong weapons for us to use to defeat Satan. We will now look at them individually.

## The sword of the Holy Spirit

"And take the sword of the Spirit that sword is the teaching of God" (Eph 6:17). That sword helps us do two things.

### *1. Overcome temptation*

Jesus has shown us the way of defeating Satan. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, he did not just reply back with any words that come to his head. Each time he replied with a Bible text. Let us not think that Jesus used supernatural power to make it easy for him to defeat Satan.

Jesus was human like us, but he used the word of God to defeat Satan, therefore we also can use the word of God to defeat Satan.

Jesus studied the word of god and had memorized much of it. This also applies to us, we must read the word of God and hide some Bible verses in our hearts to give us the strength to stand against Satan.

## *2. Help others come to Jesus*

When we are in the process of helping other people come to Jesus, we are at the same time fighting against Satan. This is because Satan does not want that person to repent. In this case, the Word of God is the best weapon to use against Satan. Paul says, “I am proud of the Good News. It is the power God uses to save everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). The Good News of Jesus Christ has power to change lives. The Bible is used like a sword to cut through the hearts of people.

“God’s word is alive and working. It is sharper than a sword sharpened on both sides. It cuts all the way into us” (Heb 4:12).

The word of God helps us in two ways to defeat Satan.

- It helps us to overcome Satan’s temptations.
- It is the power of god that sets people free from Satan’s prison.

## **Prayer**

“And take the sword of the spirit – that sword is the teaching of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times” (Eph 6:17-18).

Prayer must always work together with the word of God. If we preach the word without much prayer, then our words have little power to change lives.

In Acts chapter 6 the Apostles were considering their work and said, “Then we can use all our time to pray and teach the word of god” (Acts 6:4).

Prayer was a very important thing in Paul’s life, so he said, “My teaching and my speaking were not with wise words that persuade people. But the proof of my teaching was the power that the Spirit gives” (1 Cor 2:4).

Prayer also was important in the life of Jesus. “But Jesus often slipped away to other places to be alone so that he could pray” (Lk 5:16).

“ ... Jesus went off to a mountain to pray. He stayed there all night, praying to God” (Lk 6:12).

How about us? We need to make prayer an important part of our lives.

## **The name of Jesus**

“God made Christ more important than all rulers, authorities, powers and kings. Christ is more important than anything in this world or in the next world” (Eph 1:21).

Jesus was made very important. He says here that, “All power in heaven and earth has been given to me” (Mt 28:18). Jesus is now seated on the throne at the right hand of God, and so he also made us to sit with him in heaven ... “and gave us a seat with him in the heavens” (Eph 2:6). Jesus has power to give us authority, “I gave you power ... more power than the Enemy has. Nothing will hurt you” (Lk 10:19).

The point of all these verses is this: Jesus has authority, so is able to give the same authority to us. When we joined to Christ we can stand on his name to resist and spoil the work of Satan.

- We must preach in the name of Jesus (Lk 24:47).
- We must pray in the name of Jesus (Jn 14:14).
- We have been saved in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).
- In the name of Jesus God heals people (Acts 3:6).
- In the name of Jesus evil spirits must leave (Acts 16:18).

There was a Christian man who slept in a house one night. In the middle of the night he felt cold air blowing against his skin. When he opened his eyes he was a figure standing close to his bed side ready to hurt him. He quickly screamed out, “You leave this house in the name of Jesus!” And the evil spirit left the house in no time.

The name of Jesus is important for us to fight against Satan. When we want to use the name of Jesus we must also believe and be joined

with him in order to use his name, otherwise we would be like Shiva's sons. Acts chapter 17 tells us that they tried to cast out an evil spirit, but because they did not really believe in Jesus the evil spirit fought with them. Jesus said, "Remain in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you" (Jn 15:7). We must truly live in union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **The blood of Jesus**

"And our brothers defeated him by the blood of the Lamb's death and by the truth they preached" (Rev 12"11).

If we want to understand the meaning of the words "the blood of the Lamb" we need to think back to the story of Moses. The children of Israel had lived in Egypt for 400 years. Because they were growing in numbers, the Egyptians were afraid of them and made them their slaves. The Egyptians beat them up often and made them work very hard. Because of the beatings and the slavery work that they received from the Egyptians, they cried out to God to help them. God heard their cries and sent Moses to rescue them and bring them back to the land of Canaan. The King of Egypt became very stubborn and did not want to let the people of Israel go free, even after going through 9 punishments that God put upon the people of Egypt. The King was still stubborn, and God said, I have one more thing to punish them with to make the king of Egypt change his mind and let the people of Israel go free.

Moses told each family in Israel to kill a young lamb and put the blood on the sides and tops of the door frames. That night they were to stay in the house and prepare their things for the long journey ahead. And on that same night God would kill the first born sons from the houses that did not have a Lamb's blood on their door frames.

Finally it came to pass. That night a loud cry was made throughout the land of Egypt over the death of their first-born sons who had been killed in each of the houses by the angel of God. The King's first-born son was also killed. In the night the King sent word to Moses to take the

people of Israel out of Egypt, so the people of Israel were free to go. From this time on the people of Israel celebrate this great event each year with a holiday that they call The Passover.

This story reminds us of the work God did to set us free from the hands of Satan.

- Jesus is the Lamb of God (Jn 1:29).
- Today Satan makes people live under the slavery of sin just like the king of Egypt treated the people of Israel (Rom 6:16). We have been living as slaves of sin (Jn 8:34).
- But Jesus came to set us free (Jn 8:36).
- Jesus bought us back with his own blood. “You were bought with the precious blood of the death of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb” (1 Pet 1:19).
- “... the blood of the death of Jesus, god’s Son, is making us clean from every sin” (1 Jn 1;7).
- Rejoice. We are not slaves to sin anymore. Jesus has set us free with his blood. At the cross Jesus “defeated the spiritual rulers and powers. With the cross Jesus won the victory and defeated them. He showed them that they were powerless” (Col 2:15). Today Satan knows that the blood of Jesus has conquered him.

## A Story

There was once a pastor who wanted to start a church in a new place. He went there with some people from that village. On the way to the village people told him, “Over here is a lake known to have a spirit living in it, so we must be careful not to make any noise.” When they came close to the lake they heard a voice calling out the pastor’s name. The village people were very frightened. They thought the pastor was going to die. So they told him that they must go back. But the pastor refused and told them they were coming in the name of Jesus. The blood of Jesus will cover them. So they continued until they reached the village. When the people of the village heard about it, they thought the

pastor would die during the night. But to their surprise he did not die, so they were eager to hear the Good News. Because now they knew that God had power greater than the spirits.

We can also do the same and claim the blood of Jesus over us so that Satan will not harm us.

## **Another Story**

In a particular village a pastor went through some difficulties while preaching the Good News. Only a few people listened, but the rest just ignored him and turned away. The problem was getting worse because as he tried to read the Bible and pray he felt as if God was not listening to him. He tried to prepare the message for Sunday but he could not think clearly. He was very depressed and thought he must have committed a sin that stopped the blessing of God from flowing. And even though he searched himself through and confessed to Jesus anything he had done, still the problem was there. He asked another pastor the reason why the problem was not solved. And the pastor said, I know the reason, it is because you are working in a new place and these people are still living under the slavery of Satan. You are trying to set them free, so Satan is at work trying to defeat you. You must pray and claim the blood of Jesus over you so that Satan and that problem will leave you.”

So they prayed together, and this is what the pastor prayed, “Lord Jesus, I want to do your will, but the problem has become too big and has overwhelmed me. Lord, I can’t do it. Please cover me with your blood.” And he also spoke these words out loud, “Satan you leave me alone, I am no longer yours, Jesus has bought me with his blood, and I have made an agreement with him that I will live under his protection everyday.”

In the very moment after his prayer the problem left him and he could pray and read the Bible and preach the word without any problem.

He won the victory through the power of the blood of the Lamb. He spoke these words so Satan had to flee (Rev 12:11).

## **Praise God**

“Come, let’s sing for joy to the Lord. Let’s shout praises to the Rock who saves us. Let’s come to him with thanksgiving. Let’s sing songs to him. The Lord is the great God. He is the great king over all gods” (Ps 95:1-3).

Singing hymns, praising God, and thanking God, these things help us to defeat Satan. God uses these things to strengthen our faith in Him and Satan finds it hard to be around those who give praise to God. The Bible says clearly that in the last days every knee will bow declaring that “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil 2:11). Satan is frightened of the last days. When we get excited and confess with our mouths that “Jesus Christ is Lord” Satan is sacred and goes away.

When we worship and praise the name of God, let us do it with hearts full of thanks. “Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 5:19-20).

“Always be happy. Never stop praying. Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thes 5:16-18).

## **The power of the Holy Spirit**

When Jesus was ready to leave this earth and go up to heaven, he knew that on our own we would not have enough strength to overcome Satan. This is why he sent the Holy Spirit to us. Jesus reminded the disciples many times to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. See the words of Jesus.

“Listen! My Father has promised you something; I will send it to you. But you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven” (Lk 24:49).

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper. He will give you this Helper to be with you forever. The Helper is the Spirit of truth” (Jn 14:16,17).

“But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses ...” (Acts 1:8).

In the book of Acts we see how the church grows firm and spreads to many countries of the world. Many who were living under the power of Satan were set free as they heard the gospel and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. This church has been fighting against Satan and has been winning. The success has come about only by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many years later when apostle John was old he said, “... God’s Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world” (1 Jn 4:4).

The Bible states very clearly that the Holy Spirit helps us to overcome sin and defeat Satan and all the evil powers.

## **Our weapons for fighting**

We have looked at all the weapons God has given to use against our enemy Satan, and it is our duty to use those weapons. Let us not be afraid of Satan. We must put on the whole armour of god and these other weapons and then go head on against Satan and he will flee.

# 12 WE ARE ABLE TO DRIVE OUT EVIL SPIRITS

## A story

There was a moving of the Holy Spirit on one of the churches and many people came to worship there. Many Christians spent a lot of time praying. They also composed new songs. Many had good dreams which they shared in the service and everyone was happy and wanted to worship the Lord more and more. Peter was one of those who was leading the revival. He was used by God and he preached many good sermons to encourage the Christians. His messages also challenged a lot of non-Christians and they repented.

In one of their prayer meetings Peter testified that one of the ladies in the meeting had an evil spirit in her. But the woman told Peter that she did not have an evil spirit. They ended up in an argument in which the woman talked very strongly that she did not have an evil spirit in her. She said that Peter was telling lies.

Peter was now angry and started to beat the woman. He also told the others to beat this woman, trying to chase the evil spirit out of her. They beat her up until she nearly died.

The relatives of the woman were very angry, and reported the incident to the police and they arrested Peter. Some Christians were on Peter's side and others were on the woman's side. They were really confused.

This story raises some questions.

- What are some of the signs of an evil spirit living in a man or woman?

- How are Christians suppose to cast out an evil spirit?

## **The things that Jesus did**

“The Son of God came for this purpose: to destroy the devil’s work” (1 Jn 3;8).

When he was going around preaching the Good News, Jesus also healed the sick and cast out evil spirits. There are 7 stories that tell about Jesus driving out evil spirits.

They are as follows:

- A man with an evil spirit in the synagogue in Capernaum (Mk 1:21-28, Lk 4:31-37).
- There was a man in which an evil spirit had made him blind and unable to speak (Mt 12:22-29, Mk 3:22-27, Lk 11:14-22).
- A man from Gerasene (Mt 8:28-34, Mk 5:1-20, Lk 8:26-39).
- The son of a woman from Canaan (Mt 15:21-28, Mk 7:24-30).
- An insane boy (Mt 17:14-21, Mk 9:14-29, Lk 9:37-43).
- A cripple woman (Lk 13:10-17).
- A man who could not talk (Mt 9:32).

There were also many other occasions when Jesus cast out evil spirits but the stories are not told to us. (Mt 4:24, 8:16, Mk 1:32-34, 39, 3:11, 6:13, Lk 4:41, 6:18, 7:21).

These stories tell us that casting out evil spirits was a big part of Jesus’ ministry. Sometimes, sickness can be caused by an evil spirit, though not all sickness are caused this way.

We can’t look at all the stories of Jesus casting out evil spirits, but we will only look at the story of a boy with epilepsy.

You can read this story in Matthew 17:14-21. The father of the boy brought him to the disciples. Jesus wasn’t there at the time. He was up on the mountain praying. The disciples tried to cast the evil spirit out of the boy, but they couldn’t. Later, when Jesus came, the father brought the boy to Him and asked him to cast the evil spirit out. Jesus commanded the spirit to leave the boy and it did at once.

Later the disciples came and asked Jesus why they were not able to cast out that evil spirit. And Jesus said, “because your faith is too small” (Mt 17:20-21). He also said, “That kind of spirit comes out only if you use prayer and fasting.”

These words of Jesus show us three major things that are required for casting out evil spirits.

*Faith.* We must believe on the power of Jesus.

*Prayer.* We must hold on firmly to the Lord. As Jesus said, “Remain in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you” (Jn 15:7).

*Fasting.* Fasting shows that we are spiritually hungry. We set aside physical food and desire instead to see the power of God at work.

## **Some signs showing those who have an evil spirit**

In 1 Cor 12:10, Paul says that some Christians have the gift to “tell the difference between good and evil spirits.” This will help them work out whether an evil spirit has caused an illness or if it is an ordinary sickness. God wants to use Christian men and women who have this gift to help those who have an evil spirit in them.

Let us not at all play games with the evil spirits. Acts 19:13-16 tells us of how evil spirits dealt with Sceva’s sons when they tried to cast out an evil spirit when they themselves did not have any firm relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. But those who have a close relationship with Jesus should not be afraid of an evil spirit.

Many church leaders have dealt with people who have evil spirits and they have seen some signs as the signs of evil spirits. These signs can be:

- They are always angry when they hear the name of Jesus, see a cross or even go to a church building. There are times they can

be really angry when they see anything that belongs to God (Mk 1:21-28).

- They have a supernatural power compared to an ordinary person (Mt 8:28).
- Maybe in the past they were engaged in practicing sorcery and magic or have called out to a sorcerer for help or have made an offering to Satan.
- They may still be keeping some sorcery and magic charms in their houses.
- Their parents or grandparents were involved in practicing sorcery and communicating with dead people, and now their children have those evil spirits in them.
- Their minds are filled with evil thoughts, and they talk against the church and the Word of God.
- They speak strongly. Sometimes when a woman speaks, her tone will sound like a man. When they laugh it will sound different from their normal laugh.
- They are imprisoned with fear and worry about things.
- There are times they want to pray, but they feel there is something stopping them from praying.
- They look different in their eyes. Their eyes are red with anger and look horrible.
- They hear in their minds that somebody is talking to them, and these thoughts force them to do evil things.

You probably won't find all 11 signs in any one man or woman, but if you start to see some of these in someone's life then you should begin to think, "Maybe this is the work of an evil spirit." Sometimes an evil spirit in a person doesn't show up until the spirit of God starts to work in that person's life. Often during a revival an evil spirit will show itself clearly.

## **You must prepare yourself**

When we are in the process of casting out evil spirits, we are really fighting against Satan. That is the reason why we need to be fully equipped to fight. Below is a list of some things that must be present in our lives so that we will be equipped to fight.

- We must know that the power of casting out evil spirits can only be found in Jesus. That power is not done according to our knowledge, strength or speech.
- We must know that we have a right relationship with God. There must not be any form of sin standing between you and God.
- We must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and let him take charge and use us during that time.
- We must spend a lot of time fasting and praying and reading our Bibles. Sometimes we don't have time to get ready, and there could be someone whom an evil spirit is really getting at and we must help him or her in a hurry. For this reason we must be ready everyday.
- We must stand firm on the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus has defeated Satan on the cross at Calvary. This thought must be firmly planted in our thoughts. It is necessary that we put on all the armour mentioned in Ephesians 6:14-17 everyday of our lives.
- It would also be good if you have some strong Christians close by to help you praying for strength.
- This is not a time for non-Christians to come and watch. Because there is no way they are able to help you

## **Casting out evil spirit**

1. You must inform the person with an evil spirit that Jesus can set them free, and he or she need not be afraid. Tell him or her that the power of Jesus is stronger than any powers of darkness.

2. They must confess any sins they have. If they had been involved with sorcery, black magic or talking to the dead, they must confess these things and turn from them. And also if they are angry with someone or have bad feelings about others, these things also must be confessed.

3. Ask God to cover each one of you with the power of the blood of Jesus. This is one of the acts of faith which is a strong shield. Satan will not be able to break through it to attack us.

4. Tell the evil spirit to leave that person in Jesus' name and flee. "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" (Acts 16:18). Sometimes the evil spirit will leave that person at once. Other times they will be stubborn and not want to leave, so you must command him again and again in the power and authority of the name of Jesus to leave that person.

5. Sometimes the evil spirit will either scream out or fight back. You will also see signs of evil spirit in that person's eyes.

6. It is best if you prepare some Bible verses to use. The Bible is the sword of the Holy Spirit. And those Bible verses will help you cast out the evil spirit.

Here are some Bible verses that you can use:

- Mt 28:18. Jesus has been given all power and authority in heaven and on earth.
- Col 2:15. Jesus defeated the spiritual rulers and powers.
- Eph 1:20,21. Jesus is more important than all rulers, authorities and powers.
- Lk 10:19. Jesus has given us more power than Satan.
- Rev 20:10. Satan will not be able to avoid the fire.

The Holy Spirit will also bring other Bible verses into your thoughts.

7. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will show you some things that the person might have hidden in his house or in his life which is part of the problem. He must be prepared to get rid of these things, like the people of Ephesus did in burning all their books about magic (Acts 19:19).

8. The evil spirit has no way to win. All Satan's powers and authorities must submit under the authority and command of the Lord Jesus Christ. You can also sing songs that talk about the power of Jesus to help you as well. Some of the songs you can use are:

*It's the blood that sets me free.*

*What can wash away my sin.*

*Would you be free from the bondage of sin.*

*There is victory for me.*

*In the name of Jesus.*

*Victory, victory shall be mine.*

9. After the evil spirit has left, you must spend time with that person each day to strengthen him or her with the word of God and pray with them. They must truly turn away from any evil thing and spend much time with other Christians. They must ask God to fill them with the Holy Spirit. If they are not filled with the Holy Spirit an evil spirit will try to come back again (Mt 12:43-45). But with the help of the Holy Spirit they are able to walk in honesty before God.

## **A village story**

There was talk going around the village that a young woman had become crazy. She was a high school student named Maria. She dressed well and did well in school and everyone liked her. But now she had gone crazy. She wouldn't wash or comb her hair. She would go around at night screaming and crying out loud. Sometimes she had mud all over her body. Some people laughed at her while others were scared of her. When Pastor Philip heard of this he began to think about it and told his wife, "I believe God will open a way for us to help this girl and cast out the evil spirit that is in her." They began to pray a lot about this.

Her parents took her to a different pastor and he did not know what to do to help her. Others sent for a sorcerer but he couldn't help either.

One afternoon, Philip heard some yelling along the road, he went out to see who was coming. He saw Maria and others walking towards his house, they held her very tight. As she was looking hard at the pastor her eyes went red, and she screamed out, No, No, I am scared of him!”

Pastor Philip told those with Maria, “You all must not scream or be surprised. She has an evil spirit in her. I can’t get him out, but the Lord Jesus Christ has power to command that evil spirit to leave”. He then looked straight into Maria’s eyes and said, “In the name of Jesus Christ, you evil spirit, I command you to leave Maria.” Then there was something like the wind blowing back and forth. Suddenly Maria fell down like a dead person. Those standing there thought that Maria had died. But she did not, a little while later she opened her eyes and said, “Where am I? What happened to me?”

Philip prayed to God to take care of her and watch over her. The people who were with Maria gave glory to God for helping Maria by casting out an evil spirit.

# 13 GOD IS OUR PROTECTOR

We have been talking a lot about Satan, our enemy who tries to harm us. Do not let these words frighten you and make you think that you have no way to defeat Satan. God is our protector and if we stay close to him, Satan has no way of attacking us.

The Lord is my rock, my protection, my Saviour. My God is my rock. I can run to him for safety. He is my shield and my saving strength, my high tower” (Ps 18:2).

## Moses and the Cloud

Read Exodus chapter 14.

The Israelites left Egypt and were on their way to Canaan. When they came to the Red Sea, the King of Egypt got angry with them for leaving Egypt, so he came with his army and chariots and chased after the Israelites. The Israelites were surprised to see them. And there in front of them was the Red Sea and behind them the King of Egypt and his army. They were scared and called out to Moses for help. And Moses said, “Don’t be afraid! Stand still and see the Lord save you today” (Ex 14:19-20).

“The angel of God usually traveled in front of Israel’s army. Now the angel of God moved behind them. Also, the pillar of cloud moved from in front of the people and stood behind them. So the cloud came between the Egyptians and the people of Israel. ... So the cloud kept the two armies apart all night” (Ex 14:19-20).

God did not leave them at all, He protected and kept them safe from their enemy.

## **Elisha and the chariots of fire**

Read 2 Kings 6:8-23.

Elisha was a very powerful prophet of God. In the time when he was a prophet there was always war between the army of Syria and Israel. God was telling prophet Elisha the plans and thoughts of the king of Syria. When the king of Syria heard of it he was very angry and sent his army to arrest Elisha. In the morning, prophet Elisha's servant opened the window and saw the army of Syria surrounding the little town where they were. He was very frightened and called out to Elisha.

Elisha said, "Don't be afraid. The army that fights for us is larger than the one against us." Then Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open my servant's eyes. Let him see.' The lord opened the eyes of the young man. And he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kgs 6:16-170).

As for us as Christians let us rejoice. The army of God is stronger than the armies of this world, including the evil powers and spirits of Satan. Many times the angels of God are at work, but we do not see them. Remember the promise of God.

"The Lord saves those who fear him. His angel camps around them" (Ps 34:7).

## **A story from the village**

A rascal gang planned to hold up some people and steal their things. They first went to a nearby lake and killed a chicken and asked Satan to give them power.

Later they went to a house belonging to a Christian family. The leader of the gang with the gun went first and knocked on the door. The owner of the house came and opened the door, and the gang leader told him to surrender.

The owner of the house called out loud, "Lord Jesus, surround our house." The gang leader was by now very frightened. He lowered his

gun and told his gang members to leave. So they turned around and left.

## **God is our protector**

John Paton was a missionary in New Hebrides, an island in the South Pacific. The sorcerers in that village did not like the idea of him being there so they wanted to get rid of him. One day John met up with the three main sorcerers of the village. In the presence of the village people he said, “you men want to get rid of me, but God has called me here, and he’s got power stronger than the evil powers you have. You may go ahead and try.

“You can practice your sorcery on me today and tomorrow. We will see if you can kill me. Then we will know whether your powers or the power of my God is stronger.”

The three sorcerers called out to the evil spirits to have the missionary killed. The village people were all anxious to find out whether the missionary would die or not. However, a day went by, then two, a whole week and still nothing happened to the missionary. The people witnessed that the power of god is stronger than Satan’s power. God is our protector.

# 14 JESUS WILL THROW SATAN INTO THE FIRE

In this book we have been looking at many bible references showing us some ways that Satan works, and how Jesus was able to defeat him. Such as:

- At the first place Satan was one of God's angels, but then he disobeyed God and was jealous of god's glory. He wanted to be equal with God, so God threw him out of heaven along with many angels who joined Satan.
- We also looked at some of Satan's behaviour. He has power and is very clever, he is also in charge of all the evil spirits. He is the father of lies and is always at war to deceive God's people and drag them into sin.
- He goes around deceiving people. He deceives them to believe in the spirits of dead people, sorcery, and magic charms.
- Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan. Every miracle testifies to the power and authority of Jesus. When Jesus died and rose again he won the victory over the powers and authorities of Satan. Today, with the power of Jesus we are free indeed.
- Today, Satan is still fighting very hard, and we as Christians must put on the whole armour of God in order to overcome him.

We are now in the last chapter of this book and we have one more thing to talk about. We are in the battle, but how is that battle going to end? Who is going to win?

## **Jesus is coming back**

Christians are waiting for some big changes that will come about. Jesus is coming back. This event will not just bring a little change. There will be a lot of changes taking place. In this chapter we are not able to look at everything that will take place when Jesus comes back. We will only be looking at a few things.

The first time Jesus came as a child, only a few people saw him. But in the second coming he will come with great power and glory plus his angels and the whole army of heaven.

“They will see the Son of Man coming on clouds in the sky. He will come with great power and glory. He will use a loud trumpet to send his angels all around the earth. They will gather his chosen people from every part of the world” (Mt 24:30-31).

## **Jesus will be the judge**

“The Son of Man will come again in his great glory. All his angels will come with him. He will be King and sit on his great throne. All the people of the world will be gathered before him. Then he will separate them into two groups” (Mt 25:31-32).

“Listen! I am coming soon! I will bring rewards with me. I will repay each one for what he has done” (Rev 22:12).

Those who follow Christ and live a holy life will receive a reward and will rejoice forever. But those who disobey the word of God, and turn their backs on Christ and do bad things, they will be paid according to their bad deeds.

“We give thanks to you, Lord God All-Powerful. You are the One who is and who was. We thank you because you have used your great power and have begun to rule! The people of the world were angry; but now is the time for your anger. Now is the time for the dead to be judged. It is time to reward your servants the prophets and to reward your holy people, all who respect you, great and small. It is time to destroy those who destroy the earth!” (Rev 11:17-18).

God's judgement will frighten those who do not believe on the Lord Jesus. They will have fear because they have turned their backs on the grace of God. But those who do the will of the Father, and humbly carry the cross of Jesus Christ, they will be glad.

## **When Jesus comes back Satan will be destroyed**

The Son of God came out in the open to destroy the works of Satan (1 Jn 3:8). Jesus defeated Satan when he overcame all the temptations and performed miracles and cast out evil spirits. When Jesus died and rose again from the dead he defeated Satan with all his powers. However, up until now Satan is still working very hard. And as we get closer to the Lord's return the fight is getting even bigger.

But Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Rev 22:13). Jesus completed his work on the cross of Calvary, where he defeated Satan by tearing down all the spiritual rulers and powers (Col 2:15). Today Satan is only acting as a temporary leader of this world. When Jesus comes again and sits on his kingly throne to judge the world Satan will have no more chance to do his work.

The Bible does not tell us all the details, but it states very clearly the final outcome of Satan. "And Satan, who tricked them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur with the beast and the false prophet. There they will be punished day and night forever and ever" (Rev 20:10).

## **Christians will be rewarded**

Those who stand firm in the name of Jesus to fight against Satan will be rewarded. Some of those rewards will be:

"To him who wins the victory I will give the right to eat the fruit from the tree of life" (Rev 2:7).

“He who wins the victory will be dressed in white clothes like them. I will not take away his name from the book of life. I will say that he belongs to me before my Father and before his angels” (Rev 3:5).

“He who wins the victory will sit with me on my throne. It was the same with me. I won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne” (Rev 3:21).

John mentions some of the good things he had seen in heaven, such as:

- A new heaven and new earth,
- New Jerusalem,
- The house of God with all his people,
- No more tears,
- No more death,
- No more sadness and crying,
- No more pain,
- They will drink from the spring of the water of life.

Then John saw Jesus sitting on his kingly throne and Jesus said, “Anyone who wins the victory will receive this. And I will be his God, and he will be my son” (Rev 21:1-7).

Today we are at war. But not long from now the war will be over and we will receive the reward that is waiting for us. Paul says, “We have sufferings now. But the sufferings we have now are nothing compared to the great glory that will be given to us” (Rom 8:18).

Every Christian is involved in the war against Satan. Satan is trying his best to discourage the servants of God. He fights hard to spoil our Christian lives. So we must put on all the armour that God has given us to defeat Satan with. Friends, stand firm and do not let anything shake you. Remember that the time you spend doing God’s work is not wasted. So let us work strong in our service for the Lord (1 Cor 15:58).

## **Jesus will receive power and glory forever and ever**

In chapter 1 of this book we saw that Satan was once an angel of God, but he desired after God's glory and power. He didn't want to submit to the authority of God and wanted to make himself equal with God. So God fired him from his job and now he has great hatred toward God.

In Philippians 2:5-11 we see how Jesus' attitudes were very different from Satan's. even though he was equal with God, he did not worry about what others thought about him. Instead, he gave up his place with God and he became like a servant. He lived like a man and obeyed God in every way including his death on the cross. For this reason, God raised Christ to the highest place, and gave him the name above all names. So that everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow their knees before him and confess with their mouths that, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

In the book of Revelation, the angel of God showed John some of the things that will take place in the future. John saw the angels and everything on earth giving glory and honour to Jesus.

"Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels. ... There were thousands and thousands of angels – there were 10,000 times 10,000. The angels said in a loud voice: 'The Lamb who was killed is worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom and strength, honour, glory and praise!' then I heard every living in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. I heard every thing in all these places, saying: 'All praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever to the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!'" (Rev 5:11-13).

One day we will be among those who give Jesus the honour and praise. We will win the fight in the power that Jesus gives. Yes, give God the glory and honour, for Jesus has won the victory.

## **Jesus has defeated Satan**

Satan is very evil. He is an enemy to both God and man. He is angry and that is why he goes around ruining people and God's creation. He has power and authority enough to make us feel afraid of him. But for us Christians we should know that God, our Father, has ALL the power and authority. Our Lord Jesus Christ has already come to destroy the works of Satan.

The time is drawing near for our Lord to come back the second time to destroy Satan himself. At that time God will throw Satan into the lake of burning sulfur. And Satan will be punished day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).

Let us rejoice and keep our hopes high as we strive to win the fight.