

Overcoming Tests-Trials-Troubles-Tribulations and Afflictions: Part 2: "Give No Place to the Devil!"

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

"Neither give place to the devil" [Ephesians 4:26-27]

QUESTIONS:

- Why Does God Allow Christians to be Attacked by the Devil?
- What Does it Mean When the Bible Says: Neither Give Place to the Devil?
- How Do Christians "Give Place to the Devil"?
- How Do I Defeat the Attacks of the Devil?
- How Do I Prevent the Devil From Attacking Me?

These questions, and many more like them are often asked by Christians who do not understand some of the basic principles of the victory we have in Christ and how we can actually 'open the door' to trials, troubles afflictions and attacks of the enemy.

JESUS SAID THAT CHRISTIANS WILL EXPERIENCE TROUBLE:

One of the most misunderstood principles of the Christian life is the fact that Christians do, and will continue to experience tests, trials, troubles, tribulations and afflictions as long as we are on this planet.

Unfortunately, what most Christians do not realize is that more often than not we are the cause of many of the trials, troubles and afflictions that come our way!

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

- "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil." [Ephesians 4:26-27]

The NIV Translation says it this way: "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."

- "As the sparrow in her wandering and the swallow in her flight, so the curse does not come without a cause." [Proverbs 26:2 BBE]

The NIV makes it even clearer: "Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest."

DON'T INVITE TROUBLE:

Notice that according to the above scriptures that thru improper speech and/or actions actually open the door to the devil and allow him to bring trouble and afflictions that are associated with the curse into our life.

yes, the devil will attack people (Christians included) - but what most people do not understand is that they were the ones who invited him into their lives in the first place: "Neither give place to the devil" means exactly what it says: Do NOT give the devil a place in your life!

Don't give him the right or the opportunity to trouble or afflict you. We know from scripture that when he comes he does so to kill, steal and destroy [John 10:10] - so why invite him to do so by giving him a place or a foothold in your life?

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Part 2: Give No Place to the Devil *Continued...*

THE CURSE WILL NOT REST WITHOUT A CAUSE:

- "Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest." [Proverbs 26:2 NIV]

The Basic Bible in English translates the passage like this: "As the sparrow in her wandering and the swallow in her flight, so the curse does not come without a cause."

Notice that it does not say the curse will not try to come. What the scripture says is that even if or when the curse tries to take a foothold in your life, it cannot do so unless there is a cause!

Most Christians understand that we have been redeemed from the curse (and all of it's effects on us). Yet it is important to understand that when we choose to conduct ourselves like those who are not redeemed and who still live under the curse - then we become susceptible to the curse as well! We open the door to the curse in our lives and even though we have been redeemed from it we have chosen to act as those who are not and therefore it has every right to affect us!

DON'T OPEN THE DOOR:

- "What fearful people dread most will happen to them" [Proverbs 10:24 CEV]
- "And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." [Heb 3:18 KJV]
- "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." [James 3:16]
- "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." [Proverbs 16:18]
- "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" [Proverbs 18:21]!

There are many scriptures that warn us the consequences of acting, and speaking in ways that invite trouble! Yet most people are unaware that their words and their actions can and WILL have consequences!

Here are just a few of the ways people 'give place to the devil' and invite the curse to affect them:

- **FEAR** Opens the Door to the enemy: [Prov. 10:24]
 - **DOUBT & UNBELIEF** opens the door to the enemy: [Heb 3:7-19]
 - **ENVYING / STRIFE / ANGER** Opens the door to the enemy: [James 3:16]
 - **PRIDE** Opens the door to the enemy: [Proverbs 16:18]
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AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION:

Benjamin Franklin is famous for his witty sayings. One of his most known quotes was: "*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*".

When it comes to avoiding trouble, it is much wiser to take the steps necessary to avoid the trouble than to have to deal with all the problems that arise because we failed to do so.

I encourage you to take advantage of this FREE audio series that is available on line in our broadcast section and discover how you can prevent the enemy and the curse from gaining a foothold in your life.

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Part 2: Give No Place to the Devil *Continued...*

LISTEN ONLINE:

Part 2 of this series is now available online and can be accessed in our Audio Broadcast Section. I encourage you to listen this powerful message and discover how to overcome and even avoid many of the trials, troubles, tribulations or afflictions that comes against you!

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