

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

July 15, 2014

Lying Spirits

Mini-Book

Printed for:

HANDS FOR JESUS

P.O. BOX 250494

MILWAUKEE, WI 53225-0494

For more information, visit our Web sites at:

www.handsforjesus.org

www.handsforjesus.cc

2014 by Merle E. Koepke

All rights reserved

Introduction

What is a lying spirit? A lying spirit is an evil spirit that operates in the spiritual realm. All lying spirits are under the control of Satan, the Devil. When you see the word “evil” it comes from the Devil. The Devil is evil all the time. The spirits that obey the Devil are evil spirits.

In John 8:30-44, Jesus was speaking to a number of Jews, some who believed Jesus and some who do not believe Jesus. In John 8:30-32, it says, **“As he spake these words, many believed on him...Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

The statement Jesus made was one of the most important statements that Jesus made to those who say they believe in Jesus. That is **“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know (ginosko) the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** There are many today, calling themselves Christians, that need to understand what Jesus was saying to those who truly believe in Jesus. The Greek word “ginosko” used in this verse means, “know by experience.” Those who know Jesus by experience will experience Jesus manifesting Himself in their lives.

There were certain other Jews there who claimed to be free, because they said they were Abraham’s seed. There is a major difference between believing in a person’s mind, and believing in a person’s heart. Satan was blinding the minds of certain Jews that believed that because they were related to Abraham through “Isaac, and Jacob,” they were the seed of Abraham that Jesus was speaking of.

Keep in mind that Jesus said in John 3:6, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** Today, for a person to follow Jesus they must be truly born again, of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Peter 1:23; John 1:13). The living soul of a person who is truly born again, is translated from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9). That is what happens when a person is truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. When this happens to a person, there is a change in their thoughts in their minds.

In John 1:11,12, it says, **“He (Jesus) came unto his own, and his own received him not...But AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”** Religions teachings that claim a person becomes born again in infant water baptism are false. IT MUST BE A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, THAT CHANGES A PERSONS LIFE. Those who have not “truly seen a change in their lives,” when they say they were born again, could be deceived, just as certain Jews were deceived in John 8:30-44.

Jesus explained to those Jews that said they were Abraham’s seed, by saying, **“...If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham”** (John 8:39). There was no evidence in the lives or those Jews that claimed they were Abraham’s children. They were not doing the works that Abraham did. Therefore, in John 8:44, Jesus said to them, **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”**

Satan is the father (the beginning) of all lies. All lies come from Satan to people through lying spirits operating in the spiritual realm. These lying spirits are spoken of in Ephesians 6:12, where it says, **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”**

There are two types of evil spirits working under Satan, the Devil. There are those spirits that try to control the minds of people and deceive them into doing what Satan wants them to do. Then

there are other evil spirits that attack the physical bodies of people, causing sickness, diseases, and infirmities of the flesh.

The first time in the Bible that we see the evidence of a lying spirit operating is in Genesis 3:1-6. The serpent that spoke to Eve had a lying spirit operating through him. What the serpent said to Eve was a lie. Even though part of what the serpent said was true, it was mixed with a lie.

This is the greatest deception the Devil has today to get people, including Christians to do his will. Satan cannot force a person to do his will.

Every living creature has a free will to choose what they will do. Therefore, God has limited Satan from forcing anyone to do the Devil's will. The only way Satan can get a person to do his will is to deceive them by telling them a lie. At the same time, God "will not" force anyone to do His will.

Mankind has been given a free will, to choose whom he will serve, God or the Devil? Christians also, have a free will to choose whom they will serve, God or the Devil? Satan uses "lying spirits" to deceive many Christians today into believing his lies, and then doing his will.

In Revelation 1:18, Jesus spoke to the Apostle John, saying, **"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."** Just because that Jesus defeated the Devil and took away the keys to hell and death from the devil that does not mean that Christians are free of the works of the Devil in their lives. That does not mean that Christians can do their own will of the flesh and still inherit eternity in heaven. Christians must **"obey the LORD, and resist the Devil."** Christians cannot continue to let lying spirits have a place in their lives.

This is a daily battle, twenty-four hours a day in the lives of Christians. Lying spirits never sleep, and never stop working in the minds of Christians to get Christians to do the will of the Devil in their lives.

Whatsoever is not Truth (all truth) is a lie. Mixing part truths with part lies is still a lie. It is a work of lying spirits sent by Satan to cause Christians to become deceived, and deceive others, by listening to lying spirits.

When people say they are going to do something, and they do not do it, there is a lying spirit in operation in their mind. They are not telling the truth. What they say is only to satisfy the minds of the people they are speaking to. They usually did not have any real intention of keeping their promise and doing what they said they would do.

These are called "idle words," word spoken without any real understanding of the effects of what happens if they do not do what they say? Lying spirits operate in the minds of people who never really desired to make a commitment to keep their promise. The desire is not there, because the thought is only in their mind, not in their heart.

The world operates that way most of the time. They only keep their promises if it benefits them. When it comes to receiving something for themselves personally, they will keep their promises. But, if they will not benefit personally from the promise they made, many times they do not keep their promise.

Take for example: People go to work and spend eight hours a day, working, five days a week. They get to work on time and they keep working until their eight hours are complete. They do this every week, week after week, for many years. Why? They promised when they were hired, to work every week according to their work schedule. They were working to receive a paycheck on the end of the week.

Now, look at the promise they made to the LORD when they received Him as their LORD and Savior. They promised to spend time with the LORD in studying their Bibles and praying. They promised to do what the LORD asks them to do. Then, when it comes to spending time in the Word and prayer, they seem to always have something else more important to do. They do not keep their

promise to spend time in the Word and prayer.

It seems that Christians should at least give God 10 percent of their day. It is only reasonable that after all that God has done for Christians, two and one half hours a day in the Word and prayer is not too much to ask. Then if they go beyond one tenth of the day, God will bless them beyond their imagination.

When we spend time reading and studying the Word of God, we see how important it is to know what God has to say to Christians (who are His children). If you want to be blessed, just spend time with God in His Word and prayer, and you will be blessed.

Why don't Christians keep their promise to the LORD? Because there are "lying spirits" working in their minds twenty-four hours a day, coming up with all sorts of thoughts, of doing something else, instead of what they promised the LORD. Usually, they do not see or understand the benefits they would receive by spending time in the Word and prayer.

Why is it that way? Because the benefits from spending time in the Word and prayer begin in the spiritual realm, which they cannot see with their eyes or experience with their five senses. Spiritual experiences do not always operate according to the thoughts of the minds of people.

What Christians do not understand is that the spiritual realm is similar to the natural realm. In the natural realm, when a person goes to work every day to receive a paycheck on the end of the week, they do not get that paycheck until the end of the week. Yet, they continue to work even when they have not received the paycheck.

What about the promises that the LORD makes to Christians? When the LORD says He will do something for us, He doesn't always say He will do it immediately? Are Christians willing to keep believing the LORD will manifest the answer until the answer does manifest? If not, what is the problem? The problem is still in their minds, where the lying spirits are operating.

Let us look at another example. When Christians are talking to other Christians, they make promises to do certain things in certain ways, at certain times. But, when the time comes to do what they promised, they do not keep their promise. What Christians do not understand, is that when they promise another Christian they will do something at a certain time they are not talking only to the person they can see with their natural eyes. They are talking to the LORD Jesus Christ also, at the same time. Not only to the LORD Jesus Christ, but also to God the Father and the Holy Spirit "at the same time they are speaking to another Christian." Why is it that way? Because the Christians they are speaking to are "in Christ, and in Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead."

Christians are not individual people in the spiritual realm. Christians are "One Spirit with the LORD" (1 Cor. 6:17). Christians dwell in God and God dwells in Christians (Col. 2:8-10; 3:3). The Devil knows that God is in every Christian. But Christians do not understand that their being "in Christ" is not in the natural realm of the flesh, but the spiritual realm of the Spirit.

How come Christians do not understand "spiritual things?" They do not spend time in the Word and in prayer to permit the Holy Spirit to teach them spiritual things. They are still conformed to this world, walking after the flesh and not after the Spirit.

Look at what it says happened in Acts 9:1-6? It says, **"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest...And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem...And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven...And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?...And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks...And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."**

Saul did not know that when he was persecuting Christians he was also persecuting the LORD Jesus Christ. Christ was in the Christians Saul was persecuting. Therefore, when Christians are speaking to other Christians, they are also speaking to the LORD Jesus Christ at the same time.

Christians need to understand the spiritual realm much better than they do at this time. That understanding only comes when they are taught by the Holy Spirit. Once Christians understand the spiritual realm, then they can walk after the Spirit, and not after the flesh. Many Christians are not doing the things that Jesus said they can do, because the things Jesus said Christians should do are dependent upon Christians understanding the spiritual realm.

Let me suggest one thing to Christians today. If they would understand the spiritual realm, they could say to a “hypocrite fig tree,” “**...No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever**” and it would die (Mark 11:14).

Jesus said to His disciples in Mark 11:23,24, “**For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith...Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**”

How long will it take for Christians today to get to the position in the spiritual realm where they can do the things that Jesus said they can do? It seems that depends upon how much time Christians spend in the Word and in prayer.

Identifying Lying Spirits

False doctrines, and theologies are caused by lying spirits. Lying spirits operate in the minds of people. They operate by the thoughts that people receive when they come into a persons’ mind. They actually operate from “the tree of knowledge of good and evil” that Adam and Eve ate the fruit from in Genesis 3:6.

From the time that Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, sin and death entered into the lives of everyone born into this world through the bloodline of Adam.

In the beginning, Adam was formed of the dust of the ground, and received soul life by the breath of the LORD God. In Genesis 2:7, it says, “**And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**”

Adam’s physical body was formed of the dust of the ground. Adam’s soul, which contains “the mind; the will, the intellect, the reasoning, the understanding, etc.” came by the breath of the LORD God.

In Leviticus 17:11, it says, “**For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**” Adam’s physical body, contained the blood in which the life of the physical body is dependent upon to replenish every organ in the physical body. The life of the flesh is in the blood. That means, if the blood stops flowing in the physical body, the body will die.

Adam’s physical body also needed air to breathe. Because that the physical body of Adam was formed of the dust of the ground, Adam was an earthly creature and could not continue to live where there is no air to breathe.

Therefore, in Acts 17:24-27, it explains these two things concerning the creation of mankind, saying, “**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands...Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things...And HATH**

MADE OF ONE BLOOD ALL NATIONS OF MEN FOR TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, and HATH DETERMINED THE TIMES BEFORE APPOINTED, AND THE BOUNDS OF THEIR HABITATION... That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”

Every human being (except Jesus) living upon the earth came from Adam (the first man created upon this earth). Eve also came out of Adam, when the LORD God formed Eve from the flesh and bone of Adam (Gen. 2:21,22). Thereby, Adam became the beginning of mankind in the flesh, and Eve became the beginning (the mother) of all people born in the flesh. Adam was a male person and Eve was a female person.

In Genesis 1:28, it says, **“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”** For mankind to reproduce and replenish the earth, Adam needed a helper (a female to bear children upon this earth).

Lying spirits have brought into the world, false teachings concerning the creation of mankind in the beginning. The truth concerning the creation of mankind is also revealed in 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, where it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly...And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”**

This information has been in the Scriptures from the time that the Apostle Paul wrote it, and is still in the Scriptures today for everyone to read and understand the two creations of mankind. The first creation of man was in the flesh and the second creation of man is in the Spirit. Adam was the beginning of mankind created in the flesh, and Jesus Christ came down from heaven and became the second creation of mankind (which is in the Spirit of Christ).

Adam was created “a living soul” in “a body of flesh and bones.” ADAM WAS NOT SPIRITUAL, but earthy, of this earth. Christ was spiritual, heavenly, in a spiritual body of spirit. Anyone teaching otherwise received their information from “a lying spirit.”

Notice, how lying spirits operate? First they get one person to tell something that is not totally the truth (which is a lie). Then they get others to teach what the first person taught. This continues on and on until multitudes of people teach and believe what the lying spirit started.

Notice how that Eve first listened to the serpent, who was listening to a lying spirit sent by the Devil. Then Eve spoke to Adam, and Adam also ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 1:1-6). One lying spirit starts a chain reaction, and it continues and continues to deceive others.

Careful study of the Scriptures, “led, guided, and taught by the Holy Spirit,” will reveal the truth to whomsoever is seeking the Truth. Others, operating from their natural mind of the flesh will believe the lying spirits, that are sent by the Devil.

How do we identify and know a lying spirit? The first thing is to see if what people are teaching is in agreement with what Jesus taught in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Jesus is the Truth. The Truth cannot lie.

Be careful what Bible you use to see what the Bible teaches. There are three major types of Bibles in print today. There are “word for word, thought for thought, and paraphrased translations.” Anything other than “word for word” translations are not inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are the works of men, according to their natural mind of the flesh. God did not inspire people to write “thought for thought, or paraphrased translations.”

Those who quote Scripture verses from “thought for thought, or paraphrased translations”

AS THOUGH THEY ARE WHAT GOD INSPIRED IN THE BEGINNING are teaching from their natural minds of flesh. Their minds have not been renewed by the Holy Spirit as yet. Give them time. It takes a lot of time in the Word and prayer to renew our minds to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh (Rom. 8:1, 12:2).

That does not mean we should reject them. They may be truly born again, Spirit-filled Christians. The thing is, they have not come unto maturity as yet. But, we must listen to our spirit, and know if what they say is from God or from their natural mind?

It may be that you will need to stop listening to those who do not have their minds renewed as yet, just so you do not get into error. It is sad that it is that way today, after years and years of having “word for word” translations to study.

Unfortunately, there are many Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek words that do not have any equivalent English words. Therefore, it is important that we study the words in the “word for word” translations, to see if they are correctly translated?

To many people, that is too much work. They would rather just go by what someone else said, as long as it sounds good to their mind. Many times, it is not important to some to be correct, it is only important that they benefit from what they do, using the Bibles today to convince others to do what they want them to do. That is not of God, to say the least.

We have an enemy and our enemy not a person in the flesh. It is a spirit sent by Satan the Devil, working through lying spirits to get Christians to teach things that are not from God. Most of the time, those who do such things are more interested in what they will benefit in the natural realm, rather than what God and the body of Christ will benefit in the spiritual realm.

It all comes down to whose will are they doing, their will of the flesh, or God’s will of the Spirit? Oh, that Christians would understand the benefit of doing God’s will, not their own will of the flesh. What we gain from what this world has to offer, will only keep us from gaining in the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the will of God. Each one of us must choose for ourselves who will we follow, God, or the spirits of this world?

Keep in mind what it says in 1 John 2:15-17, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world...And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”**

Jesus gave us warning in Matthew 24:11-13, saying, **“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many...And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold...But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”** The important thing to us should be, WHAT MUST WE DO OURSELVES, that in the end we shall be saved? Then, do whatsoever is necessary to obtain unto the resurrection of the dead (Rev. 20:12-15).

Overcoming Lying Spirits

The first thing a person must do to overcome lying spirits is make sure, beyond all doubt that they are truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Many lying spirits have told people that they were born again when someone leads them in a sinners prayer, saying, *“Say this prayer,”* and then they told them what to say. For some it may have worked, but for others, nothing happened. Why didn’t anything happen? God looks at the heart, not the mind when a person prays or says a prayer.

There may have been a lying spirit in operation when the person who said, *“Say this prayer,”*

was speaking. That does not mean there is something wrong with the person, except that the person was operating from their mind, and not from their spirit. They may have had good intentions, but that is not what God is looking for.

Jesus said in John 6:44, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”** If God was not drawing that person to Jesus, nothing will happen in the realm of the spirit. In John 6:65, it says, **“And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.”** We need to be led by Spirit of God, in what we do, and when we do something. We are not in to be trying to control what God wants to do in another individuals life. We must be doing God’s will from our spirit, not our will from the flesh.

What needs to be understood is that for a person to become truly born again, it must be a work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, not someone trying to count how many people they got to say a sinners pray. Some people are out to get the glory for what they say they did. That is not how God works. That is of the flesh.

There is one thing of importance to look for when a person is truly born again, that is a change in their lives. If there is no change in their lives, something is missing. We know that the change does not “always happen immediately.” But a change does take place in the life of a person who is truly born again. I know of people who have had a major change take place in their lives when they were truly born again. It is like the example I have given in some of the books I have written about the born again experience.

I used the example of a butterfly and a caterpillar. A butterfly lays an egg. When the egg hatches, it becomes a caterpillar. The caterpillar lives and moves around by using its legs to crawl upon. It lives off the food it gets from wherever it can by crawling around. After a period of time while living as a caterpillar, the caterpillar goes into a state of change. The caterpillar first forms a cocoon around themselves. As time progresses they are changed from a caterpillar into a butterfly.

Thereby, a caterpillar becomes a whole new creature, going from a creature that lives off the ground, to a creature that flies in the air above the ground. Their whole lifestyle changes, and they cannot continue to live like a caterpillar any longer. They must live like a butterfly.

If Born again Christians want to inherit eternal life in heaven when they leave this earth, they need to live like they are a new creature in Christ Jesus. Jesus taught about this over and over in the Gospels. There must first be a change in a persons life from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ. Then Christians must mature in the spirit, to maintain their eternal life in Christ Jesus.

A change does take place in a persons life when they become truly born again. In my life, I was a religious person for most of my life, until I became truly born again. I was water baptized in a church at about eight days old. I was told I was born again by water baptism. I belonged to that denomination until I was forty-five years old.

I did everything I could to follow the teachings of men. I saw evidence of God working in my life many times. Yet, I came to the point in my life when I could no longer continue to live the religious lifestyle I lived.

I was at a point in my life, where I had many desires for the things of this world. I had plans for owning four or five duplex houses and renting them out so that I could retire at about fifty-five years old and just live off the income from the duplexes that I owned.

When our thoughts are focused upon what is in this world and we want what the world has to offer, there is something wrong with our thinking. When our thoughts are on ourselves, not on God and His desire for our lives there is something wrong. If we will look at 1 John 2:15-17, we will see what is wrong.

If God is not first in our lives, there is a good chance we are not truly born again. Born again Christians are no longer in the flesh of Adam, but rather they are in the Spirit of Christ. As it says

in Romans 8:9, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** If a person is truly born again, then they are in Christ, and they have become a new creature.

In the Spirit of Christ dwells the fulness of the Godhead, and God is “the main focus of our lives.” What does God want us to do? How can we do the will of God in our lives? These are the important issues in the lives of truly born again Christians.

In John 1:10-12, it says, **“He (Jesus) was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not...He came unto his own, and his own received him not...BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”** When we understand what it says in John 1:10-12, we realize that we must “personally” ask Jesus Christ to become our LORD and Savior. No one else can do it for us. God receives those who, from their heart receive Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior.

When we become truly born again, God becomes our true Father. God adopts us in Christ Jesus and our thoughts change from loving the world and the things of this world, to loving God and the things of God.

On a Thursday evening, in the last week of June, 1979, I prayed to the LORD, asking Jesus to come into my life and be my LORD and Savior. That night a major change took place in my life. My thinking changed to the degree that I could no longer think about owning four or five duplexes and retiring at about the age of fifty-five.

On the following Sunday (three days later), as I sat on the davenport in my living room, all of a sudden I found myself standing in the clouds above the earth. I looked down on the earth below and saw all the property I owned. I saw people in the Olympics, diving from a high tower into a pool below, simply to receive a medal for their accomplishments. As I looked up from the cloud I was standing on, I saw a bright light shining down from above. I heard a voice say to me, *“All of this will pass away, the only thing that will matter is your relationship to Me.”* The voice I heard, I was sure it was the LORD speaking to me. After I heard the voice, I was suddenly back in my body on the davenport in my living room. (The complete testimony of the experience is in the Book “BLESSED ASSURANCE” By Merle E. Koepke, it is available by downloading from the Internet Web sites at: www.handsforjesus.org and www.handsforjesus.cc).

When a person is truly born again, there should be some type of experience with God that we know we are truly born again. Not everyone has the same type of experiences as others. But, the Bible does tell us, there is one experience, whereby we know that we are children of God. That is in 1 John 3:24, where it says, **“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, BY THE SPIRIT WHICH HE HATH GIVEN US.”** This is speaking of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Those who speak in tongues know that they are truly born again, because no one can receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit unless they are first born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, speaking in tongues is evidence of the new birth.

Yet, many do not receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for years after they are truly born again. Today, we know that the reason many do not receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is because of a lying spirit that teaches against the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

One main evidence of the New Birth is the desire to read and study the Bible day and night. Many, like myself, had that desire from the day we were born again. If God is truly in you and you are in God, there is a desire to know God and be with God always.

If a person says they are truly born again, and they do not have a desire to read and study the Word of God, there is a question concerning their new birth. In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** How can a person be truly born again of the Word of God and not love the Word

of God? Therefore, one of the first indications that a person is truly born again is their desire to read and study the Word of God.

We know that the lying spirits of this world will do all they can to remove the desire to read and study the word of God from the hearts of those who are truly born again. Jesus said in Mark 4:14,15, **“The sower soweth the word...And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.”**

If Christians do not have other Christians around them that are truly born again, Satan will do all he can to take away their desire to read and study the Written Word of God.

How can Christians overcome lying spirits in their own lives? In James 4:5, it says, **“Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?”**

The evil spirit of “envy” usually works along with the lying spirits. Therefore, if we notice a spirit of envy in our lives, we know that there is a lying spirit working somewhere in our lives. Therefore James 4:6,7, says, **“But he (God) giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble...SUBMIT YOURSELVES THEREFORE TO GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.”**

Why is it so important to submit ourselves unto God? Simply, because God is for us, not against us. God has great plans for our lives here on earth. God desires to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. Philippians 4:19, says, **“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”** Now, we must not think that using that verse is taking things out of context. Look at what Jesus was saying in Matthew 6:25-34. In Matthew 6:31-34, Jesus said, **“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?... (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things...But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.”**

God loves us so much that He will add unto us whatsoever we need “to do His will.” If we are going about doing our Father’s will, God will supply all our needs. God has made us a promise that He will supply all our needs if we will **“...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...”**

The good thing about seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness is that it is all free. We do not have to earn what God supplies freely. We do not have to keep the Law of Moses by our works of the flesh to receive the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. God already did for us, what we could not do of our own ability. God adopted all Christians into His Kingdom according to His good pleasure.

It says in Ephesians 1:3-6, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ...According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love...Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will...To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”** God has already made Christians acceptable in the Kingdom of God. God did that for us already before we were born into this world.

Sometimes, Christians should take a hold of themselves and say to themselves, *“Wake up, you are already in the Kingdom of God.”* God has already accepted us, sanctified, justified, redeemed, saved, and made us the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Why don’t we believe what the Word of God says about us?

I know why? There is a lying spirit putting thoughts in our mind’s day and night, to keep us from believing the Word of God. If we listen to the lying spirits we will be deceived, just as Adam and Eve were deceived. Therefore, we should, **“Submit ourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,**

and he will flee from us.”

This may seem hard for many Christians? But, it is not any harder than the first time we learned to ride a bicycle. How many children today have learned how to ride a bicycle when they were little children. It took some time, some bumps, some hurts, but we did it. We did accomplish what we desired to do. We did learn to ride a bicycle. Once we learned how to ride a bicycle, we never forgot how to ride a bicycle.

Once we learn how to submit ourselves unto God and resist the Devil, it will work every time. The Devil knows that Christians have power and authority over all the works of the Devil. In Matthew 8:29, it says, **“And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”** Then in Matthew 8:31,32, it says, **“So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine...And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.”**

In Mark 1:23,24, it says, **“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out...Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.”**

It is just a matter of a lot of time in the Word and in prayer that matures a Christian into becoming a Son of God, and walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh. Don't stop working on building up your faith, walking in Love, and destroying the works of the Devil.

Jesus set the example. Jesus told us what to do. Now, it is up to us, to do what Jesus said to do. When we become doers of the Word and not just hearers only, we will see the results.

Our only enemy is the Devil and his evil spirits. When we destroy the works of the Devil, the Devil will not have any power over us. Let us therefore, be aware of “lying spirits” and how they manifest in our lives. Then take authority over them and do not let them manifest in our lives.

God loves us and has given us power over the “lying spirits” that try to control our lives. Let us love one another, and help one another defeat the Devil in our lives. Working together as members of the Body of Christ, we can accomplish the will of God in our lives, as well as helping other brothers and sisters in Christ overcome also.

When we put God first in our lives, then our neighbors second, and ourselves last, we will fulfill the royal law according to the Scriptures. James 2:8, says, **“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.”**

Benefits of Spending Time In the Word and Prayer

In this world, we have a choice between spending time in the Word of God and in prayer, or spending time doing what the world does, “which is being led by our natural (unrenewed) mind of the flesh.” As we spend time in the Word of God and Prayer, the Kingdom of God will manifest in our lives. The Holy Spirit will lead us in the way of **“...righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”** (Rom. 14:17).

When we choose to stay with the Written Word and the Blood of Jesus, the Kingdom (reign) of God will manifest in our lives. In Romans 14:17, it says, **“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”** There is a difference between “joy” and “happiness.” Joy means “cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight.” Happiness means,

“supremely blest; by extension, fortunate.” Joy comes from our spirit, whereas happiness is more in our mind.

When we stay with the Written Word of God and the Blood of Jesus, we will have “**...peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**” (Rom. 14:17). When we have “**...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost,**” we will experience the fulness of the Godhead working from within our spirit.

Speaking of the disciples of Jesus, it says in Mark 16:20, “**And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**” This is the way it should be with mature Christians. The signs should follow mature Christians wherever they go.

That Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:7-14, “**But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ...Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ...And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith...That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death...If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead...Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus...Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**”

There is a high calling of God upon every born again Christian. That is to obtain, first unto the maturity of “**Sons of God,**” led by the Spirit of God in everything we do (Rom. 8:14). Then there is even a greater position for those who obtain unto the maturity of Sons of God, that is, after our physical death of the flesh, we shall reign with Christ. In Revelation 20:6, it says, “**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**”

A thousand years is much better than just a few years in this life. It is a much greater reward to reign with Christ after we leave this earthly body of flesh and bones, than anything this world has to offer while we are still here on earth, before we leave this earth. There is a “**...prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**” That prize is to be with Jesus Christ for all of eternity.

The prize of the High Calling, comes after we win the fight against the lying spirits of this world, whom Satan sent to deceive us, and keep us from doing the will of God in our lives.

Satan’s Loss, Our Gain

When Lucifer rebelled against God and did not repent, he was cast out of the third heavens down to the earth (Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-20). When the LORD God first created mankind in the beginning, man was created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-28). God gave man dominion over all that the LORD God created in Genesis, Chapters One and Two.

The first opportunity that Satan had, he sent one of his highest ranking evil spirits to work through a serpent. That spirit was “a lying spirit” directly under the power of Satan. The lying spirits are spoken of in Ephesians 2:2, where it says, “**Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.**”

A lying spirit, worked through the serpent, to talk to Eve in Genesis 3:1-5. The serpent, because he permitted a lying spirit to operate through him, was cursed by the LORD God. In Genesis 3:14, it says, **“And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.”**

If you will notice, those who permit lying spirits to operate through them, will be accountable to the LORD sometime, if not here on earth, it could come when they stand before the LORD on the last day, known as the day of Judgement (John 12:47,48; Rev. 20:11-15). In Revelation 21:7,8, it says, **“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son...But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, AND ALL LIARS, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”** Who is a liar? A liar is someone who is telling lies. It is not someone who at one time told a lie or lies. Those who repent of telling lies and confess their sin of telling lies are forgiven and their past telling lies and lying are forgotten by God. Therefore, when they are forgiven for their past life, they are restored to fellowship with God, and they can enter into heaven with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Repentance and forgiveness is the key to walking with God, and inheriting everlasting life in heaven.

It is important that we understand the spiritual realm, both the Satanic realm and the Heavenly realm. Satan tries over and over to use lying spirits to get people to follow his plans to destroy mankind. Satan tried to stop King David, where it says in 1 Chronicles 21:1, **“And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.”** In Zechariah 3:1,2, it says, **“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him...And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?”**

In 1 Kings 22:19-22, it tells of “lying spirits” who operated through King Ahab and Jezebel’s false prophets. In the King James Version of the Bible, it tells of when the prophet Micaiah came to King Jehoshaphat, and King Ahab, and said, **“...Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left...And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner...And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him...And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so...Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put (nathan) a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.”** The word “put” is a miss translation. It should have read “permitted.” The stem of the Hebrew word “nathan” is Qal, The mood is “perfect.” Therefore the meaning is “to give, bestow, grant, permit, etc.”

When “people permit” lying spirits to operate in their lives, God does all He can to give them time to repent. But, there does come a time when God can no longer protect those who do not repent. Therefore, the LORD does permit the Devil to destroy those who do not repent. This is also seen clearly in Romans 1:18-32, where it says, **“...as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind...”** (Rom. 1:28). A reprobate mind is an unapproved mind, similar to that of the Devil himself. Do not keep doing what you know you should not be doing. Repent and be forgiven, and praise and worship God.

The Devil always used “lying spirits” to try to stop God from fulfilling His plans for mankind, whom He created in His own image and likeness, and gave mankind dominion over all that God created upon this earth.

The Devil always knew certain things concerning God's plans for mankind. It was no secret to the Devil what God was doing. It was only hidden from the Devil how that God was going to fulfill His desires for mankind in the end.

When Jesus came into this world, born of the Holy Spirit and a virgin woman, the Devil used King Herod to try to kill Jesus. In Matthew 2:1-12, it gives some of the details concerning how the Devil tried to use King Herod to try to kill Jesus. In Matthew 2:13,14, it says, **“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him...When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.”**

When Jesus was about thirty years old, following His baptism in water by John the Baptist Jesus received the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 4:1, it says, **“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”** The Devil knew who Jesus was, and Jesus knew who the Devil was. It was not a secret in the spiritual realm who was who. Therefore, it seems the Devil did not send “a lying spirit” to try to deceive Jesus. The Devil himself came to try to deceive Jesus. This could have been what seemed to the Devil, his best chance to stop Jesus from doing the will of God the Father. But the Devil did not know “how that Jesus was going to do the will of God the Father.” The Devil was out to stop Jesus, knowing who Jesus truly was. Therefore, in Matthew 4:2-11, it says, **“And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred...And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread...But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God...Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple...And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone...Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God...Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them...And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me...Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve...Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”**

When the Devil could not stop Jesus, he continued to send his “lying spirits” to the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees to get Jesus to do His own will of the flesh, and not obey God the Father. Yet, the Devil did not know “how that Jesus was going to do the Perfect will of God the Father.” Jesus was walking and living on this earth in the body of mankind. Satan tried to take advantage of his position in the spiritual realm, operating through lying spirits, to try to stop Jesus.

Jesus continued to go about destroying the works of the Devil, healing the sick, casting out devils, even raising the dead. The lying spirits kept working through the Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, including the Sanhedrin, and the High Priests to stop Jesus from destroying the works of the Devil. But, Jesus continued to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and demonstrate the will of God the Father for mankind.

Jesus continued to preach the same Gospel that Christians should be preaching today. Whereas, the “lying spirits” are continuing to deceive Christians the same way they deceived many of the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees while Jesus was here on earth in a physical body of flesh and bones.

What the Devil did to Jesus was just what God had planned from the foundation the world, which was before Adam and Eve were created. The Devil never stopped trying to do his own will, but continued being deceived himself.

What Christians need to understand is that, “it’s what is happening in the spiritual realm, that determines what happens in the natural realm today.” Not understanding the spiritual realm, is a result of Christians not spending time in the Word and prayer, so that the Holy Spirit can teach, lead, guide, comfort, and help them to do the will of God the Father, not their own will of the flesh.

Christians must not let the “lying spirits” have any place in their lives. Look at the example that Jesus set for us to follow. Jesus, was God with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning. Jesus was the LORD God that created Adam and Eve, and placed them in the Garden of Eden. Jesus, as the LORD God, gave Adam and Eve a free will to choose which trees they would eat the fruit thereof.

The tree of life was in the garden for Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of and live forever. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was also in the garden of Eden, which if they ate the fruit of that tree, Jesus (the LORD God) told them, they would experience two deaths (eternal separation from God forever and physical death of the physical body of mankind). Therefore, Jesus (the LORD God) told them not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17).

When Adam and Eve disobeyed Jesus (the LORD God), and listened to the “lying spirit” instead, Jesus took the responsibility for what Adam and Eve did upon Himself. Jesus came into this world to destroy the works of the Devil in the lives of all who will believe Him and obey Him.

Just think of the LOVE of God in Jesus Christ our LORD and Savior. Jesus (the LORD God), came into this world as a man in the flesh. Jesus (the LORD God), became as we were, so we could become as He was. That is, “Sons of God,” having the very life of God within us, to be with God for all eternity.

What greater love can anyone have for those who have sinned and followed “lying spirits” that deceived them all their lives. When God was willing to become a Man in the flesh, so that we can become “Sons of God,” how much greater Love can anyone have for those who are lost?

God has set before us Life and Death, Heaven and Hell. Which one will we choose? Will we let those “lying spirits” of the Devil have any place in our lives? Or, will we lay our lives down for those who are still being deceived by “lying spirits” sent by the Devil? What greater love is there than when someone is willing to die for others? Jesus did it for us. What will we do for Jesus?

When Christians follow the example of Satan, the Devil, and go about doing their own will, they become deceived by the lying spirits of this world. God has a perfect plan for anyone who will follow God’s plan for their lives.

God is love (agape). God loves everyone, even those who do not love God. But, God is limited in what He can do for people, based upon how willing they are to deny themselves and follow God’s perfect plan for them, which goes way beyond this world, this earth, into the heavens above.

Until Christians, make a full commitment to do the will of God the Father in their lives as Jesus did the will of God the Father in His life, they will easily be deceived by “lying spirits” working in their minds, and the minds of others around them.

There is a place reserved for “those few Christians” who will determine to do the will of God the Father, and follow Jesus every day of their lives. Self-denial is a part of God’s perfect plan for Christians. That is why, Jesus mentioned so many times that we must deny ourselves to follow Him.

It is not what we can do, but what God can do through us when we “stop listening to lying spirits,” sent by Satan, the Devil to deceive us. Our place in eternity is based upon what we do about Jesus and the Gospel Jesus preached.

Satan’s loss is our gain. When we look in Revelation, Chapters Four and Five, we will see that God is looking for Christians who will praise and worship God for who He is and all He has done for us, that we could replace Lucifer and the angels that left their first estate in the third heavens before the throne of God.

There is room in heaven for every Christian that will deny themselves and do the will of God the Father. It is our choice, whom we will worship and praise. God desires to be worshiped and praised for His Love for those who will love Him as He loves us.

I want to encourage every born again Christian to **“...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”** (Phil. 3:14). It is a battle against the “lying spirits” that want to control what we do in this world. To win the battle, we must **“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses”** (1 Tim. 6:12). To fight the good fight of faith, we must believe all that Jesus taught us in the Gospels, and all that we are taught in the Epistles. We cannot fight the good fight of faith if we try to do the will of God by our own ability. It takes the ability of God working in us and through us. It must be by faith in God, and in His Word, according to what is written in the Scriptures.

Jesus said in Mark 11:22, **“Have faith in God.”** That means, do not have any faith in ourselves, or any other system this world has to offer. God has created mankind to live and walk in His image and likeness. The image of God is Love (agape) (1 John 4:8,18). The likeness of God is **“faith in the Word of God.”** Whatsoever the Word of God says, “God will do,” believe it, and do not let anyone or any “lying spirit” tell you differently.

When Christians base everything they believe upon what they see with their five senses they will be deceived by “lying spirits.” God operates in the spiritual realm, and brings into manifestation His Word in the natural realm. All things began in the spiritual realm, therefore Christians are to operate in the spiritual realm, “by the anointing of the Holy Spirit within them.”