

hold near and dear to our lives. The devil normally works in the “mind” but can work in relationships, using others to cause divisions among people. Either way, it is nearly always starts as a “spiritual” event, which grows into an expression or action. For this reason, the believer must stay anchored in the Word of God... keep in daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and be connected as much as possible to the body of Messiah (normally in a local fellowship). Our battle against the devil is as an individual believer; and collectively with the saints, as a body of believers... and we are stronger “knitted” together in the unity of the faith. That is why the devil tries to divide fellowships... to divide and wear down the saints.

We must know who our enemy is! It never ceases to amaze me (John) how many “Believers” take the devil for granted... some people say they are not sure they believe he exists. The Bible says, in 1 John 3:8 “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” Yeshua sends us (believers) forth to do likewise “to destroy the works of the devil.” Yeshua said, “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19) The

devil is our enemy, and his whole purpose for existence is to destroy the child of God and stop him/her from fulfilling God’s purpose for their lives. He’s real, he plays for keeps and he’s out to destroy you. But God has given us the victory through Yeshua. He does not want us ignorant, though, of the devil’s devices. God’s Word says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6) The Word of God in your heart, mind, and in your mouth will keep you from being destroyed... emotionally, spiritually, and physically, and provisionally... as you walk in the set apart life Yeshua has called you to live.

(Rev. 12:7-11) “And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the DEVIL and SATAN, who DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD; he was cast to the earth, and his angels (demons) with him. V. 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. V. 11 And they overcame him by the

blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Satan was cast out of heaven, and was cast down to earth, where he deceives the whole world, and is the accuser of the brethren. BUT VERSE 11 TELLS HOW THE SAINTS OVERCOME him! “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” The basis of their triumph: the Cross (the blood of Lamb), and the authority of God’s Word (the word of their testimony). Even in the case of sometime martyrdom... (fearing not for their lives unto the death). I (John) believe that *the word of their testimony* is the Torah founded life-style lived (words spoken, expressions and gestures, respect and obedience to the Commandments and Instructions in God’s Word, kindness and not harshness and anger, love and grace exhibited; namely speaking and acting like Yeshua exemplified for us... all exhibited in difficult times as well as good). This is a “set apart,” or holy life style; having no worldly likeness that taints the set apart life expected of the believer. If we compromise these Word “instructed” values, we open ourselves up to the devil’s influence and affliction. The devil knows what our weakness are... especially our “hot buttons.” We have

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authority over our adversary by the same method Yeshua exemplified in His earthly walk. That being the authority in Yeshua's Name and by the power of His blood and by being under the authorities over us, and by the empowering work of the Holy Ghost in us. Yes, that same Holy Ghost that was in Yeshua when he set out in his earthly ministry as Son of Man under the anointing of the Holy Ghost... Yeshua was the Son of God too, but he destroyed the works of the devil as a man born of woman, empowered by the same Holy Ghost that works in the believer today... if they walk under the authority of Yahweh's Word... and in His Torah instruction, not "church" doctrine, which oftentimes abandons the truth of Scripture.

Spiritual conflict with the devil is a battle we fight until we get to heaven, but the devil has no authority over the saint of God (one that's living for Yeshua and following His word). Satan is the great counterfeit, always accusing the brethren, saying, "did God say", just like he said to Eve back in the garden. Be aware, and watchful when he comes to you and says, "did God say"...he's always trying to get you to doubt what God says. Don't listen to his accusations; just do what Yeshua did when he was tempted by the devil. The Bible says, "submit yourselves unto God, resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

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Yeshua always answered back, "it is written," that's what will send the devil fleeing from you. Remember, he's not afraid of you, he's afraid of the one who lives in you, and he must flee from the Word of God applied by faith from the mouth of a Believer who is submitted to the Lordship of Yeshua.

**The final dwelling place of the devil is forever settled! (Rev. 20:7-10) "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE WHERE THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET ARE. AND THEY WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER."**

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## The Devil –Real or Myth

(John 10:9-10) "I am the door (Yeshua talking). If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. V. 10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." This is the dividing line in scripture: Good God/ Bad Devil

Yeshua said that he came to give life not just ordinary existence, but life in joyful abundance; on the other hand the enemy (Satan) comes to steal, kill and destroy. The line is clearly drawn here. On one side is God with goodness, abundance, hope, healing, and plenty of all that we need in this life and godliness, and on the other side is the enemy of our souls, who comes to rob us of God's blessings, to oppress our physical bodies with sickness and untimely death, to torment our minds with his thoughts of destruction and hopelessness and to destroy everything that we

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