

The Real Culprit

Jesus told a parable in Matthew chapter 13 that is worth reading. It depicted a farmer sowing wheat in the field. As the wheat grew, weeds appeared—growing in the midst of the wheat. When asked who was responsible for this evil, Jesus blamed the “**enemy**,” which is the devil.

Matthew 13:37-39 - He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. “The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

God often gets blamed for the evil, sickness, disease and death in the world. But in fact, it is the work of a fallen angel named Satan, the enemy of love and peace and the author of hate, death and disease. Knowing he has so little time left before the end of the world, Satan is now working with increased fury and intensity in an effort to cause maximum distress to the world, and maximum pain to the heart of God. God’s people are to study and know the “true” word of God, so that the real culprit won’t get away with lies and deceit in your life. God is a God of love and that will never change. No matter how horrible this world is, God will one day restore peace and love. God is not your enemy, but Satan truly is. So, the next time evil, sickness and disease overshadow this world, remember that “*an enemy has done this.*”

You Can Win

The whole world is in distress, wracked by war, natural disasters, illness, disease and social problems of the most serious kind. According to the United States Bureau of Justice, more than 15,000 people are murdered every year, including more than 500 children.

Evil and pain are real. This is a hurting world. In Bible prophecy, a woman is used to symbolically represent a church. Satan is targeting the church, you—God’s people—in earth’s last days as the special focus of his hate and wrath. It is not going to get any better. The bible says it won’t.

Matthew 24:12 - Because lawlessness will abound [multiply], the love of many will grow cold.

Are you experiencing and feeling the pain of Satan’s wrath in your life? If you are, don’t be discouraged. God’s people are to stand strong against the lies and deceit of the devil. Don’t listen to His lies and definitely don’t follow what He suggests. Today, you can stand tall and strong against His attacks. God is with you and His power can keep you when you are attacked. As those around you grow cold, you don’t have to lose hope in your faith and trust in God because of what you see or experience. Rely on God’s power right now today and win all your battles.

The Gift

Belief in Jesus Christ is the prerequisite for receiving the gift of everlasting life. **Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Make sure you notice that it is a **gift**. God gives salvation to those who seek it. Eternal life cannot be bought or earned. It is given by God as a gift. So, why do so many work to try and achieve it or obtain it? It is very important that we understand it cannot be earned. All your doings, all your works, will never get you into heaven. Salvation is received by faith and the decision to believe that God can be relied upon based on the promises in the Bible.

The authority of why we do what we do is the Bible, the “true” word of God. Today, if you are trying and trying to receive approval from things or people in this world, you can stop right now. The only approval you need is from God. If He is on your side and you know and believe the promises of God are for you, you are well on your way. Let the life that you live in front of others and the world show your true ownership. Be honest with yourself if you fall short in your walk because God already knows. When you do this, it is all that you will need. Enjoy your gift and your walk with God. Believe the Bible is the authority of God for your life, and let your life be a scripture to someone today.

Work in Me

When Jesus offered to visit a man’s home and heal his servant, the man said that all Jesus needed to do was to speak, and the servant would be healed. He believed that God’s word was able to do what it said it would do.

In response, Jesus said, “I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel.” The man’s **complete** trust in Christ’s word was an example of true faith. Faith says, “If God said it, I expect it to be so.” After accepting the gift of eternal life from Jesus, a person’s life becomes surrendered to the will of God. And each moment, they live yielding to Jesus and asking that His will be done in his or her life.

Philippians 2:13, “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”.

Today, what work do you need right now that God can do in you? Is it your tongue, keeping it under the control of the Holy Spirit? Is it a bad habit that you just can’t shake? Is it courage to stand up for God’s truth, even if it means being alone? Whatever it may be God can work in and through you for His good pleasure. Ask Him right now to give you power to let go of what you are holding on to in your heart. Don’t let it keep you separated from Him. It is His will and pleasure to work in you a good work. Just let Him do it and let Him do it right now.

He Is Able

When God says that He gives you everlasting life, believing He does so and expecting God’s promise to be true is a demonstration of faith in action. God promise to forgive us for our sins and to give us everlasting life. Faith is simply choosing to believe what God has said and believing that the gift of everlasting life is yours!

Another biblical example of faith is found in the experience of Abraham. **Romans 4:20-21 says, “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”**

Faith is a settled belief in God's ability to do what the Word of God says God will do. Do you believe that right now? Do you believe that God will do all that He has promised you? You can! You don't have to believe the lies of the evil one, the Devil. Walk right now by faith and know that if God has spoken it, it cannot be reversed. Salvation is yours today and believing that you will get through your trial, by faith is yours as well. When you pray believing by faith that God will do what He said He will do, there is nothing that is impossible for you to reach. Do it now, trust Him now and receive your promises and watch where God can take you.

To repent is to turn away from sin. A repentant sinner is sorry for the sins that he or she has committed, and—acknowledging the sinfulness of sin—turns from sin to embrace the righteousness of God.

God's Mercy

When we sincerely confess our sins to God in prayer, God forgives us and cleanses us. We know for certain we are forgiven simply because we believe God's promise to us. That is, we accept God's forgiveness by faith. We confess, and God forgives. It really is that simple!

Are you allowing guilt, old things in the past to keep you bound to its grips? It will not go away simply because we choose to not deal with it. Satan is very good at helping us not forget our past. If you struggle with unforgiveness and things that just keep you from moving forward, read this next verse.

Micah 7:19 - He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities [sins]; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

The sea is pretty deep, just to give us an idea of how He buries them out of sight. Don't let Satan hold your past over your head. God doesn't and that is all that you need to know to keep moving forward in Him. Ask God for forgiveness and today you can accept His forgiveness by faith. Believe what He has promised you in His word. If others hold your past against you, just remember, God won't. And when He says you are forgiven, you are forgiven. It really is that simple!

The Newness of Christ

A vital key in living a satisfying Christian life is submission to God. Christianity is not simply a matter of believing certain ideas or principles. It's a life lived in surrender to the will of God. Jesus pledges to accept all who come to Him in faith. It is not possible to be so sinful as to be beyond the reach of the grace of God. When you open the door to Him, He walks right in and begins a work in you on your behalf.

In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him".

Anyone can come to Him. As long as you are willing for Jesus to accept, forgive, change and save you, He will do so. He has promised that He will do it. That means a person is remade by God through the grace of God and given an entirely new nature, which creates a new life in place of the old, sinful life.

Today, you can really change. You can turn bad habits and poor behavior into victory for Christ. All you have to do is **trust** the God of heaven to get rid of it for you. Take a good look at yourself. Be honest with what you see and give it to the Master. He will make old things pass away and make all things new. Let Him do that for you right now and you can walk in the newness of God, like never before as you experience the peace of being free in Jesus.

As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"(2 Corinthians 5:17).

When we accept Jesus as our Savior from sin, yield our lives to Him and then allow Him to live His life in us, we can be confident the gift of eternal life is ours and we are living with heaven in view!

Jesus clearly told us that the life of faith is a life of growth. With each passing day, we learn to yield more fully to the presence of God in our lives, so that His will may be done through us.

Jesus certainly believed in a place called heaven! He declared that He came to the world from Heaven

The Right Choice

God didn't create a devil. He created a perfect and beautiful angel named Lucifer (which means "Light Bearer.") But Lucifer chose to rebel against God. It was Lucifer's own choices that alienated him from the heart of God. Remarkably, Lucifer wanted to sit in God's place. He wanted to receive leadership, rulership and worship! Dissatisfied with his own elevated position as a covering cherub dwelling in the presence of God (Ezekiel 28:14), he rebelled against God in an attempt to receive the honor that belongs only to God.

God extended to His created beings [all mankind] the special gift of freedom of choice. People are free to choose to serve God, and free to choose not to serve Him. Angels were given this same capacity. The decision to sin was a choice on the part of Lucifer, as well as on the part of Adam and Eve. We can choose to sin, or we can choose to obey God.

Deuteronomy 30:19 - "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.

The choice you make today will either free you or enslave you. Satan made the wrong choice, and His penalty of death is certain. You don't have to make that same choice. You can choose life, which is following God. Not only will it save you, but your household will benefit from the light of God in you. So, what will it be today? How will you use your freedom of choice right now? Next time when it is placed before you to walk with God or walk with the devil and His lies, choose to walk with God and watch your life change forever. It really does come down to making a choice. Make sure you make the right one.