





# REDEEMED

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**Table of Contents**

Introduction	7
I've Been Redeemed	13
Redeemed From Sin	19
Redeemed From The World	28
Redeemed From Myself	44
Redeemed From Satan	58
Redeemed From Death	71
Redeemed From The Past	81
The Price of Our Redemption	89
Let The Redeemed of The Lord Say So	98
Redeemed and Delivered	105
Fear Not	114
Redeeming The Time	118
Return Unto Me	122



## **Introduction**

### **What Does It Mean—Redeemed?**

There was a custom in Israel that people, land, even animals could be redeemed or purchased, brought back. This happened a lot to slaves and bonds servants who were bought back from their bondage and allowed to go free. Bond servants were those who had agreed to become servants to another for a period of time maybe to work off a debt they owed them. A story that best explains redemption is found in Nehemiah Chapter 5. During this time, Israel was occupied by Babylon. Nehemiah and the majority of the Jews were taken to Babylon itself. There was a remnant left in Israel. If you remember, Nehemiah was in Babylon and God gave him the job of being the King of Babylon's cupbearer. One day he heard about how Jerusalem was in ruins, and the wall was destroyed. He moaned about the condition of his homeland.

I believe that we can surely see a parallel here with Jerusalem, and the condition of the church as a whole today. The church world today is in a mess. Because of our ministry's different divisions such as our international church and minister organization, and our international extension college program, we talk to people around the world on a daily basis. The

collapse of the church is not just a local thing. It isn't even just something that is a problem in the US. It is a world wide problem. As a whole, most churches are compromising with the world to the point that they are no longer preaching and teaching against sin. Many of the people in the congregation no longer even know what is wrong and what is right. Churches fill themselves up with worldly activities and rituals to draw people because there is no move of God's Spirit to draw them. God's Spirit does not move in the midst to convict, heal, save, deliver, and empower the people. People are not committed. It is not a priority in most people's lives to serve the Lord in God's fullness. We no longer teach and preach about what it means to have an obedient, every day relationship with the Lord, one in which we listen to his voice, yield and obey. It is all about our self will, not the will of God. Church organizations and denominational headquarters control the churches and they themselves are more often than not controlled by fat bellied, money loving, power tripping, self serving individuals. Wow, that is a mouth full, but can you argue with its truth? We all talk about the move of God that used to be, but we surely are not having one. Sin like a cancer has eaten all the way from the pew to the pulpit. Spiritual Jerusalem is falling down around our ears. The walls of our homeland have fallen. It



is time, church, that we like Nehemiah moan the condition of the church.

Nehemiah was a slave in a conqueror's household. But God had plans for Nehemiah. God used him to rebuild not only the city walls, but eventually Israel was restored because of his faith, obedience, and persistence. He set himself aside, obeyed God, and God used him in a mighty way. The church today needs more Nehemiahs. This rebuilding job was one of the worst rebuilding projects ever. Read about it. They were going through such attacks by the enemy that they were having to build with a weapon in one hand, and carpenter tools in the other.

Israel had basically fallen except for a remnant (praise God, even in times of punishment, He will always have a remnant, a little group left). This remnant had more or less been living off the land. The city was in ruins. Evidently, during this time and maybe up to the time when they were rebuilding the wall, people must have had some really hard times. They were even forced to sell their children to slavery to get money to buy food. Better to see them being slaves than watch them starve to death. These people had gotten into a terrible shape. Their only means of survival was to borrow from someone who had a lot of money.

Sad to say, it sounds like the people that they were borrowing from were their friends and neighbors. They needed redemption, someone to buy back what they had to sell to survive. They couldn't pay the price of redemption so that they could get back their stuff. Those who were oppressing them were requiring them to pay interest. They couldn't manage the interest enough to pay back the debt that they owed. (Sounds a lot like credit cards.) Nehemiah stepped in and said in Nehemiah 5 verses 10 and 11, "I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury (interest). Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive yards, and their houses also the hundredth part of the money and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them." According to what Nehemiah did, their debts were considered paid. They were bought back. What had been taken to pay their debts was restored for them. They no longer were in debt, and bound to those they owed. They were redeemed. Wow, after such a bondage that they had been under, can you imagine what a relief, what a celebration. Everything was restored to them.

Before we gave our life to Jesus, we were sold under sin, bondservants and slaves to the world, satan, death, even to ourselves. We owed a debt

that no one could pay, and there was no likelihood of our ever being free from it. Jesus died to pay the cost of our redemption, to buy us back from the things that we were bound to. His precious blood was the price that He paid for our redemption. We are no longer servants because of this, but we are sons. We have been redeemed.

Until we as the church of a living God claim our victory as the children of God and walk in redemption, we will not be able to be a light to this world of darkness. As pastors, teachers, workers in the kingdom of God, if we do not walk in redemption, victory, and freedom, how can we lead others to do so? How can we lead others in restoring the walls of Jerusalem when we are so bound by the enemy that we can't build? Jesus talks about a curious group of people in Luke 6:39. They are all in a ditch. How did they get there? The blind were leading the blind. If we aren't careful, we can do the same. Isaiah 56:10 talks about blind watchmen. Until we understand fully what we are redeemed from, how can we teach it? Until we are walking in spiritual victory, redeemed ourselves, how can we lead others that way?

In this book you will learn of the things that you have been redeemed from. You will learn more about the price that was paid for your

redemption. You will also learn how to walk and be victorious because of this wonderful redemption that God has for you. Begin to declare it--***I am redeemed.***

## **Chapter 1.**

### **I've Been Redeemed**

Our first redemption comes when we are saved, when we are born again. I hear so many people say today, "I've been redeemed. I've been born-again." I have heard many say it and it actually came out sounding like they had joined a popular club. Even many dedicated to the idea of being a Christian fail to have an idea about what it means. Some say, "Jesus died for my sins and I asked Him into my heart when I was a child. That is why I am saved". Some say, "I was baptized when I was young, and because of that I am saved". However, there isn't any evidence of it now. Many don't have any idea of what it means to be saved, born again, redeemed, even though they are professing Christians, and have been for years.

If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you have asked Him into your heart, that is just the beginning to being a Christian. That is the first step, the baby step in our walk with Him. Even though it is very important, it is just the beginning. Then comes the next step, finding a relationship with God that is real. I read a little tract many years ago that said, "How can you miss heaven by 14 inches." That is the distance between your heart and mind. Some people get everything they need in their mind. They know

all the right words and have all the answers in their own thoughts. However, they never possess a relationship with God in their hearts that is real.

Unless you let your heart get involved, how can you have a relationship with anybody? Especially with a God who is love. (I John 4:8, "...for God is love.") I have gotten to know my Savior. The more I get to know Him, the more I love Him. I am passionate about the things of God. My experience is a lived reality, not just a pretend thing in the mind. It is an experience that I live 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. We can think anything in our mind. Something that is real is also in our heart. Then on the other hand I have known people who have a passionate relationship with God, but they lack any knowledge at all. They are ignorant in the ways of God and in His Word. These too will eventually fall by the wayside. (Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge....")

Salvation is the beginning of our Christian experience. The beginning of our walk with God. Now Pentecostals, I can hear you say, "Yes praise God, you need to then be baptized with the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues." Yes, that is important, but that too is just a beginning. So many get that experience and that is the last important experience they get.

Then their relationship with God gets dry and stale, which is even worse than when that happens to someone who doesn't even know about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. They never grow in that wonderful gift and never experience the fullness of God. (Galatians 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.") If the Baptism was all there was to receiving God, why do so many receive this wonderful gift and a few years later fall by the wayside. No wonder so many nominal people don't accept the Baptism of the Holy Ghost when they see those that have it fall along with those of their own rank.

If I wanted to build a house, I would need the right tools. Then I would need to learn how to use them. Then I would need to put them to use. Bishop Goad, the overseer of our ministry, was a builder by trade before he became a full time minister. He has a big power saw. That thing is huge. He grabs that thing up and zips along cutting things made of thick metal, things you thought couldn't be cut. Now I have seen him do that a zillion times, but don't ask me to grab that thing up and use it. I value my fingers. I don't know how to use it. If someone with more aptitude for that sort of thing took a few lessons and started using it, through time and practice they could be good at it. But I'm

not willing to start. So I will never be good at that. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost as well as our redeemed salvation experience, the Word of God, and much more are all tools. We have to be willing to learn how to use them. We have to read the manual, and start using them. We have to put to practice what we learn.

The Word of God is the manual for a victorious Christian life. We read it with our mind on a thousand different things usually falling asleep in the middle of our reading. We read our designated chapters for the day, proud of ourselves that we have gotten our reading done. We have no idea of what we just read, or how to apply it to our lives. We go away with our mind and heart just the same as it was before we read it. We don't make God's Word a priority and because of that we never find the power it holds to change us. The Word of God gives us direction for how to live victorious, for how to overcome satan, how to overcome the battles and circumstances in our lives, how to grow in our relationship with God. It is so powerful that it comes with a written guarantee from the hand of God that it will not fail. (Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.") If we don't take time to read the manual and read it



right, we won't know how to use the tools that God has given us. One of the greatest of these is redemption. This book is written to explore what God's Word has to say about this wonderful tool.

Redemption and salvation are the first tools we are given. To use them properly we first have to understand what they mean. Then we have to use them. We have to walk in what we know. We have to understand what it means to be redeemed, who has redeemed us, and what we have been redeemed from. Redeemed is defined in the Webster's dictionary as being: "To regain possession of by paying a price, to recover, to pay off, to receive back, to satisfy as in a debt owed, to be set free, rescued, and ransomed." We have been redeemed. We have been bought back from something. Those who were sold as slaves in Nehemiah's time definitely knew what the word redemption meant.

Before we are saved we don't want to talk about anybody owning us. Or if we do, it is because it makes us feel secure to say someone owns us, but in truth, we own ourselves. When you have seen the things in life that can happen to people like I have, you will understand that there is no security to be found in owning our own lives, or in someone else owning us. The only real security we can find in this present world is in

God. The truth is, we are slaves before we come to know God. We won't admit it then because we are so self centered, and self willed, but we are slaves. We are slaves to sin, this world of violence, slaves to our own foolishness and flesh, slaves to sickness and death, and more. In the pages to come, we will talk about some of things we can become enslaved to, or things that can possess us, and bind us, things we belong to. We may not even realize these bondages. Then we will talk about how Jesus redeemed us from them all. Then we can walk in that victory that He died to give us.

## **Chapter 2. Redeemed From Sin**

The first thing that owns us before we come to God is sin. (Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”) Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”) If someone who isn’t saved, and isn’t born again, and doesn’t know the power of being redeemed, tells you that it isn’t hard to do right, they are lying. Or they are very far away from knowing the truth. Before we are saved, and redeemed, we are slaves to sin whether we mean to, whether we try our hardest, or whether we don’t care. There is no way around it. Our best is just filthy rags no matter how hard we try. (Isaiah 64:6, “but we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags....”) Someone bound with drugs and alcohol is just as bound by sin as someone who has sat on a church pew all their life and never found a personal relationship with God. Both are bound with sin. One has as much hope in finding redemption as the other. Matter of fact it has been my experience in over 20 years of ministering to people that those who sit on the church pews in their illusion that they are OK are harder to win to the Lord than those who are on rock bottom looking up.

When Jesus died, His blood was shed that we could all be redeemed from the power of sin. Sin is cruel. I have seen people that looked twice their age because of the damage sin has brought to their life. I have seen sin destroy not only parents, but the sins of the parents also destroyed their children. The Bible tells us that the destructive reaping of sin's wages is passed down to the third and fourth generations. Sin never just affects one. When we sin, we bring pain to everybody whose lives we touch. Sin is so easy to get caught in. We think, just this once, what would it hurt. On down the road when our life is destroyed, we wish to God we never would have edged one foot down that road. Unconfessed sins destroy God's people. When we hide sins, I don't care how well or how long we hide them, they will come out and they will destroy. People will find out what you do. The Bible says that it will be shouted from the highest rooftops. That is how God deals with sin. You won't get by.

In today's church world we live in a world of excuses, in a world of half-truths. There isn't any real black or white as far as what is sin. I have heard some churches teach what might be wrong for me might not be wrong for you. The Word of God has gotten so watered down by compromise nobody really knows what is right.

We just don't want to be made to feel uncomfortable. The ones who pay the most for this is the generation coming on. While we have choked on our own morals, they have grown up not knowing that there is a right. Nothing is wrong to them. This has become doing anything that feels good. Even if that means marching into classrooms and killing their classmates and teachers. Children need values. They need clear-cut ideas of what is right. No guidelines leave them without handles to hold on to.

Because our churches have not stood up for the truth in the Word of God, they have no knowledge to sustain them. We are in a time like Paul foretold in Romans 1:22-32, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature, more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. (Note: Today we serve our own flesh. We have made ourselves to be little Gods.) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward

another; men with me working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in them that do them.” If this isn’t a picture of today, I don’t know what is.

What is right is right, and what is wrong is wrong. That is how it is. And we aren’t the judges. We aren’t the Gods who decide what is right or wrong. God’s Word is what sets the standards. We can be so smart that we think we know, but we are standing far from God and knee deep in sin that threatens to destroy not only us, but also those around us. We need to become humble before God, and beg Him to show us and to convict us of our sin. The old time conviction power of God is gone from our

churches. Without God's conviction, showing us when we are sinning, how can we know when we are doing wrong? If we don't know, how can we confess what we have done? If we don't confess, and admit we have done wrong, how can we repent. If we don't repent, how can we be forgiven? If we aren't forgiven, how can we make it to heaven? We may not want to feel uncomfortable, but praise God he makes conviction to be so uncomfortable that we can't run past it into destruction.

I am reminded of a gentleman who came into our church's food bank. He told me that he was going through a really hard time financially and needed food. He was an alcoholic. He started telling me about how he had been going to different churches in our area visiting their services. Our area is overrun with churches who teach that it is fine to do whatever you want to do because God loves you and He will forgive you. These churches don't mention sin from the pulpit because they don't want to make those in their congregation to be uncomfortable. (I believe that this is a glimpse of the end time, one world church that will persecute God's people. We see it today. They say that Christianity discriminates against people's personal choices, and it shouldn't. They say that we all need to come together and settle our differences and be one church without all this

bickering over what is wrong and right. They say that those people who do that should be outcasts and pushed away. Today one output of that way of thinking is the hate crimes laws. This will only get worse. One day, they will deliver us up to be persecuted for preaching God's Word. Where did I get this from? God's Word. When I am talking about all this, I am not talking about one denomination here, but a sick condition of the church as a whole. Church, we need to wake up.)

Let's get back to the man who came to the church food bank. As I said, he was an alcoholic. He told me how he had been to different church services in the area looking for help. He told me how the first church he had been in had welcomed him with a great love. They had made him feel right at home. They had treated him with respect even though they knew he had the problem he had. He attended there for a brief time. Why did he leave? They didn't help him. He knew he needed help. He knew that he needed deliverance. He knew he was a drunk. Their love didn't help him get set free from that. That is what he needed. He didn't need people who made excuses for his problem, he needed to get delivered from his problem.



Then he went to another church. They talked about how they used to have a move of God in their services. They talked about how God used to deliver people. God wasn't there now, and God didn't deliver him, and he left.

Then he talked about going to a church, and he wondered when he walked in who the pastor was because the guy in the pulpit was one whom he had seen drinking in the bar and picking up women. This is no joke, this is not just a random example I am making up, this is a true story. Wow. No wonder the world isn't coming in to be saved. We can't get sin out of the pulpit, let alone out of the pew.

This guy made a statement that I will never forget. He said, "I don't need people to act like that I don't have a problem, I need to get deliverance." If we don't teach people what is wrong, how can we help them get deliverance. They just blindly wander around stuck in their sin, and have no idea that they can get free. If we don't have the power of God flowing in our services, how can people get free. This guy knew more about what should happen in churches than the people sitting in those churches. He knew about the power of God and deliverance because when he was young, he had been in that sort of church. He was down low

enough that he had started looking up. He was looking for help. He wasn't finding it.

The wages of sin without God are awful. We don't have to pay them. We have been redeemed from the power of sin. But if you are happy with your sin, and the way it is destroying your life and the lives of those you love (and if you think it won't, you are a fool), don't get around Jesus. He will bring a difference. Don't get a relationship with Him that is real, because He will bring a change in your life. When He died on the cross and His blood was shed there for everyone who wants to receive it, He redeemed us from the power of sin. Praise God, He did that for you. He didn't do this because He knew we were perfect. He did it because He knew we would need redemption. Everyday you can claim, "I am redeemed, and I am set free." Then go out and live it.

We are also redeemed from the power of sin through the power of God's Word. God's Word is our school master, teaching us, and guiding us into the right direction. It also, through Its Words, gives us power to overcome. It strengthens the Spirit man inside us, Jesus through the power of the Holy Ghost. We also have the Holy Ghost in us to help us overcome sin. If we obey God's Spirit, and we commit

and submit our flesh to Him, He will rise up in us to be strong. Jesus knows what it is like to overcome. He can be the overcomer in us. We have to learn to walk in the Spirit so that our flesh doesn't rule our lives. Through His Word, His Spirit, and His blood, we are redeemed from the power of sin. We will talk more in the chapters coming up about what we are redeemed from, and how we can walk in the victory that brings.

### **Chapter 3. Redeemed From the World**

Another thing that we have been redeemed from is the world. Now the church has compromised with the world for so long that when I say the world in this way, most Christians don't know what I'm talking about. Some of us don't want to know what I mean, because we are so tangled up in it we can't even see that we are. When I say the world, many young and old right away think I mean illicit sex, drugs, and alcohol. But it means a whole lot more than that.

Too often today, when the world looks at the church, it sees a confused mess. It sees itself with a strange twist. The Bible says clearly to come out from among them and be a separated people. (II Corinthians 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.") What does this mean? Whatever it is, we can see that the promise of doing so means that we can be God's children if we do. I guess you could also say that if you don't, you can't be one of His kids. God calls us to be what the world would consider a peculiar people. (I Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy

nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”) We are to be a priesthood in the eyes of the world, set aside to shew God’s mercy to those in darkness. When those in darkness look at you, do they see God’s light shining in you, in what you talk about, and in what you do, and where you go? Is your life a light? Today the church is so much a part of the world that it actually competes with it. No wonder our witness means nothing. We wonder why people don’t want to be saved anymore, why people don’t flock to our doors to find the truth. Then we have a bunch of worldly activities to draw them. What a mistake. What are we offering them? A watered down Gospel and a compromised life? In most churches they surely don’t see sold out, Gospel walking, obedient children of a victorious and Holy God.

When you listen to the conversation of most Christians, you can find out quick where their heart lies. (Luke 6:45, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is good....” Matthew 12:34, “...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”) They may talk a lot about their favorite ball team, movies and TV shows, what

all their kids are involved in, their favorite hobbies, who has what, and who is doing what. But very few are talking about Someone Who is supposed to be the Lord of their life. This isn't a game that we play. This is life or death for eternity. It is what you focus your life on that will be what determines where you spend eternity. Jesus is Lord and every knee will bow to worship Him. If He isn't Lord of your life now, He isn't there in your life at all. The closer that you get to Him, the more you will focus on Him. He is that wonderful.

I don't have a lot of time for TV and movie watching. I have things to do that can change the lives of those around me, and my own life. I don't care what movie actor or actress is in what movie (most of the time people that get caught up in this stuff have a little lust problem on the side). I don't care what sports team is winning. Don't play any music around me that doesn't lift up Jesus, because it isn't worth my time. The world's preachers in music, movies, TV, etc. have nothing to say to me that I want to hear. Don't ask me to sit down and enjoy a good book that isn't a Christian one. I have a book that no matter how many times I read it, every new time I pick it up it ministers life to my soul and mind. I am tied up tangled up in Jesus and the world has nothing to offer me. The devil that controls it to get hold of my soul

cannot manipulate or control me because of that. Where are your priorities? Where is Jesus in your life? The devil is a master at slipping in the things that don't matter to take up your time and energy from the things that do.

When Christians get tied up in the world they don't realize the bondage that they are in. The devil doesn't walk up in his red suit and say, "Here I am." He sets traps that bind. He gradually causes our priorities to get out of line. Before long our lives are trapped, our priorities so messed up we can't see how to get them right. If we aren't careful we can find ourselves no longer serving Jesus as Lord of our lives. One example I see so often is this one. The devil sneaks in and gets Christians to gradually lose their priorities. Little by little they begin to compromise, just in small things at first. They begin to think like the world, and the world doesn't think like the Word of God. They begin to spend more, because the world's ways often have a big price tag. They have to concentrate on making more money, and this becomes a priority over serving God. Eventually they take a job that requires them to work on Sunday. Church becomes a forgotten thing. Eventually so does serving the Lord Who gave His life for them.

When I think of how the world can bind us, I think of Samson. His story starts in Judges, Chapter 13. Most of us know how the story goes, but it would be good to read it again. Now Samson's fall didn't just come in the day when Delilah got hold of him. It came gradually a step at a time. If it wouldn't have, he would have seen it coming and run away. We have to remember that at the beginning of his story, he was a promise from God to his nation. The Spirit of God moved strong in his life. He became a judge, a ruler.

One of the rules that God made for him was that he was not to touch strong drink. Well, he started hanging around the vineyards. Not to drink, mind you, but just to smell the grapes. One of the number one rules God laid down for him was to stay away from strong drink. There he was, hanging around the vineyard. Then he started going other places where he wasn't supposed to go. He started hanging around people he wasn't supposed to hang around with. When his parents rebuked him for it in Chapter 14, you can see that he excused it away as harmless. He began to compromise in the standards that he had set, and the ones that God had set for him. The devil was working out a plan to destroy him, step by step and little by little. We know how the story ends. He was



bound, blinded, and the devil ground him down to his death.

If we stay with one foot dancing toward the world, and the other heading in God's direction, we will eventually fall down. The Bible tells us to come out from among them and be a separate people. The devil draws us aside and we begin to fall in our relationship with God and most of the time we won't even see it. The devil will blind us and get us so busy in thoughts of the world that we can't see it. He gets us caught in a rat race life doing things we "just have to do". We don't have time to read our Bible and pray. Our thoughts are far from God. Then we realize one day when a crises comes, that we no longer have God's presence in our lives and we aren't even sure when we moved away from it. How many Christians do you know that are God sold out, passionate about their love for Christ, serving Him in self-sacrificing obedience? Is it the majority or the minority? We know that Jesus is coming and that every day brings the rapture closer. The devil's greatest means of keeping the church from reaching others, and being ready itself, is the world.

The world also has a different way of thinking. (I Corinthians 3:19, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...") I hear its stuff coming out of the mouths of Christians all

too often. One thing is the compromise it brings. I heard someone say the other day, “I like to watch this TV program. You might not want to because it deals with controversial subjects.” Translated into God’s talk that means, it is dirty so you might not enjoy it. But that isn’t how the world talks. What is wrong is wrong, and right is right, no matter how the world prances around it to make it sound different. The Word of God sets standards for our life. The Holy Ghost of God convicts our hearts of things that are wrong. If these things are not operating in your life, then you need to seriously evaluate your relationship with God.

You cannot compromise and keep His Spirit in your life. The world is full of all kinds of compromises. There are certain little catch all phrases that the world uses to get by with things. It is so sad to hear these coming out of the mouths of God’s people. I have even heard people say that we don’t want to be too dedicated to God, or serious about our relationship with Him. They will say that we need to compromise on what we believe is right, to be able to attract young people to our churches. That is so sad. What young people need to see is something that is real. They get enough of the world. They want something that is serious enough that they can dedicate their lives to it. They want to know that God is a

God that doesn't compromise. They learn all they want to know about compromise from us. They want something solid enough to build their lives around. Give them that. I have seen people in churches whose compromising attitude would destroy young people that came in the midst before they had a chance to find a relationship with God. Then they would turn around and use the fact that there were no young people in the church to further their argument for being the way they were. Where is God in this? James 4:4, "...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Here is an illustration that will help you to better understand what coming out of the world means. I praise God for Godly grandparents. They taught me what it means to come out from the world. They lived on a farm up in a hollow in the hills of southwest Virginia. They lived a quiet life and a very peaceful one. They weren't caught up in the pride of life. They weren't caught up in the ideas and thinking of everyone else. They weren't trying to be like everyone else, or have the things that everyone else had. They weren't trying to be popular. They were just serving the Lord with all their hearts. The things that they had were only the things that they needed. My grandfather farmed

and my grandmother was right by his side. They worked hard but at the same time they had plenty of time for fun and family.

Their favorite pastime and recreation was going to church. They loved to go to church. They traveled everywhere they could to be in services. One of their main activities of the day was prayer. I remember as a child that we would always without fail close our day with prayer and devotion time reading together and studying God's Word. Now as a young person, I rolled my eyes at this but no matter. We were gathered in for devotions rather we liked it or not and we really knew better than to say any thing about it.

My grandparents didn't own a TV set. It had gone out many years earlier. My grandparents didn't have it fixed for several years. When they did get it fixed they saw that the programs had started showing people drinking and smoking. They didn't like to watch that so they put the TV back up and never did get it back out. The main source of entertainment was the big piano. We'd gather around and sing for hours. There was never anything played there or sung but Gospel music. They had a radio, but it always stayed tuned to Gospel stations. For more than 70 years, the only sounds that came from that house was the sound of good

Gospel music, and the sound of prayer and praise, and singing to the Lord. When I think about what it means to come out from the world and be a separate people, I catch a glimpse of my grandparents. It's a glimpse that guides me today in making the choices of my life. It is a glimpse that causes me to focus on the world to come, and not on the bondages of this present world.

As a contrast, I have watched the lives of many people today. Not only people outside the church, but also many inside the church as well. Sad to say, but even in the church you find more of the world than you find the Spirit of God. The pride of life is one of the bondages of this world. I have known people who wanted more and were never satisfied with what they had. If they thought it was stylish to own something, then they would go and buy it, no matter how deep in debt they were. If they thought that it left an impression on other people if they had or did this or that thing, then they would go after it. These people are never satisfied. Their mind is constantly in what they have or want. Their lives are focused on this world, and not on the things of God. They go where the rest of the world goes, talk like the rest of the world talks, do what they do. They talk that talk and walk that walk no matter how funky it is. They have to be fashionable and up

to date in their thinking no matter how against the Word of God that thinking is. They frown on and look down on those that aren't like they are and they control the popularity of others by this. These people are usually stressed out from running here and there because they lack a genuine focus for their lives. The world is cruel. Since they aren't focused on God and the things of God, the world gobbles them up. They are usually a nervous wreck, broken hearted, insecure mess. They have no real security because without God as their number one focus, they have no security. They lack peace and contentment that only comes when Christ is number one. Usually they are on all kinds of pills. They take medication because they are nervous, or depressed, or chemically out of balance. They have no idea that their problem is that they are out of balance themselves with the Lord. Now I want to make a point here. I am not talking about sinners. Matter of fact there are many people who meet this description that sit on the pews of the church every Sunday. Maybe I have even been discussing you.

The Word of God says to come out from among them and be a separate people. God knows what He is talking about. II Corinthians 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord..." God knows what

He is talking about. If my grandmother would have come in all shaken up, popping pills we would have thought surely the world was coming to an end. My grandparents had a peace that was a light to me even now years after they have gone on to be with the Lord. They didn't even know what the world thought, and they certainly didn't care. They weren't caught up in the thinking of this world, but in the ways of the Lord.

Now do you see what I mean when I say come out of the world and be separate? How many people do you know that are no longer serving God? Why? Were their priorities out of line? Did they begin to compromise on God's Word and His truth? We have been bought with a very, very precious price. The blood of Jesus redeemed us. It has redeemed us from the world. Through His blood, and His Spirit, we can overcome the world. Through the power of His Word we can overcome. We don't have to be slaves any more to the world, its ways, and its thoughts. We can overcome through the one who redeemed us from the world.

I am reminded of a place near Saltville, Virginia. This was once a salt mining town. At one time, the salt mine there was a booming mine. The railroad ran through there and they would haul out trainloads of salt. There was

one spur of the railroad that went nowhere fast. It was a side rail. It actually went several miles then just quit. It had no destination. The company would store train cars on that side rail. Those cars were going nowhere. Sometimes we can get side railed in our experience with the Lord. The company closed. Today, you can go to Saltville and you will see the scores of railroad cars that are still there some 20 years later, side railed. The devil is tricky though. He hides his siderails. They look like the places where we need to be. We let the world consume our life, steal our time, get us side tracked from obeying the Lord, fill our life with drama to the place that we don't have time for Jesus, get us so consumed with everything but God so that we don't even have time to pray, and all this steals our victory day to day. We wind up going nowhere in our spiritual lives, and if God doesn't intervene, we eventually pay for it sometimes with an eternal payment of losing our souls.

What are some signs that the enemy is side railing you using the world? Do you feel so hectic and worn out, and it seems that you are constantly running but getting nowhere? This sounds like a commercial, but hold on, isn't this one sign that you aren't setting priorities in your life, that the Lord of peace is not in control of your life? Isn't this one sign that you have too



much going on in the world, and not enough Jesus? Don't let the world consume your life. Don't let flesh minded people control you. They will have you wrapped up tied up tangled all up in all kinds of things but Jesus. You don't have to keep up with anybody but Him.

Next time you have a fellowship meal, or some kind of gathering at your church, sit and listen. Is your congregation more mindful of the things of the world, or the things of God? Think about your own life. List the things that consume most of your time. Is it God's things, or things of the world. (I want to do a little preaching here about what the world is calling social media. Texting, face book, etc. is mostly right out of hell. If something is addicting to the place that is consuming your life, it is being used by the devil to control you. If you can't put down your phone to have a real conversation with someone, you need to burn it. Seriously. This is a major problem. Why else would some states have laws to keep people from texting and driving if it wasn't addicting? How bizarre. It is addicting to that point that people can't get away from it to drive their vehicles. By the way, while we are on that subject, get out from in front of that computer screen long enough to build a real relationship with your family. Your kids need you. Those

so called friends on Facebook can wait. We need to get out of the world and get into Jesus.)

I John 4:4, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world.”

Romans 12:2, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Galatians 1:4, “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.”

I John 5:4-5, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is He that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Don't forget, Jesus died to redeem you from the world, its pit falls, the devil's lies, and traps that they hold. You owe Jesus no less than making Him the number 1 priority in your life. When He becomes Lord of your life for real and you obey Him, the things of this world will grow dim in the light of His love. That rat race life that you have found yourself in will begin to

straighten out. Your family will begin to lose that tension that has them all tied up in knots. You will become strengthened in body and mind as well as spirit. We have been redeemed from the world, don't let it be your God.

We are redeemed. Let's walk like it, talk like it, live like it. Then when the world looks at us it doesn't see its own crazy reflection—instead it will see Jesus.

## **Chapter 4. Redeemed From Myself**

Who is your worst enemy? If we are real with ourselves when we are asked that question, most of us would answer that our worst enemy is ourselves. Sure the devil is our enemy. Most of the time though, how he fights us is to use us against ourselves. Our flesh is an enemy to God. Romans 8:5-8 tells us, “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” You, yourself, minus God in you, cannot please God no matter how hard you try. Matter of fact, on your own without God’s help, the harder you try, the bigger mess you’ll make. When we try to do our best in the flesh, we fail and become condemned, and often never understand how it is that we messed up. We will become so condemned from trying and constantly failing that we eventually give up, or rebel against God in our heart.

One of the things that makes us our own worst enemy is our self will-our flesh. Our flesh is an enemy against God. Our flesh is how we think,

how we feel, our physical cravings, and our outward self, that part of us that is separate from God. Our flesh man cannot serve God. You cannot make yourself serve God. You can't even on your own make yourself love Him the way He deserves. So how are we supposed to do these things? He shed His blood on the cross so that we could be redeemed from ourselves. We are set free, bought back from the flesh that can destroy us. He redeemed us because He knew that we couldn't do it on our own. He created us with a built in container to hold His Spirit, then He comes inside when we accept salvation, and He can help us from the inside out do the things we can't do on our own. We can't change ourselves, but He can from the inside out. If we acknowledge that He is inside of us and we submit to Him, He can help us do the things we can't do. Then we can have the strength we don't have on our own. We can be the witness we need to be. We can step up and obey God when it is hard to do so. We can overcome the power of the enemy. We can do this all through the power of the Holy Ghost within us.

Then He gives us the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is a gift separate from salvation that gives us the power that we need to overcome. When we receive the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, we are filled up

with God's Spirit from the top to the bottom. We open our hearts to His fullness and we submit more to His Holy Ghost inside of us. For more about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost read these sections of scripture. The Baptism is first mentioned by John in Matthew 3:11. Here are more references, some about the Holy Ghost, and others about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Ezekiel 36:27, John 14:17, Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 3:16, I John 2:27, Joel 2:28, Luke 11:13, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:17, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6-7. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost fills us up with God's Spirit giving the power to overcome our flesh. But all this is still just the beginning. This is just a tool. We have to know how to use it. That comes through submitting to God and obeying. For more about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, read my book titled *The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*. It is available online free at [www.freechristianonlinebooks.com](http://www.freechristianonlinebooks.com), or the book is available to order at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

The art of submission today is a lost art. We don't want to submit to anything. Marriages fail because wives don't submit to husbands and husbands won't submit to God. Workers don't want to submit to bosses. Poor children, they get all the blame for being a rebellious generation, but they have had some mighty fine teachers. Who submits to God? Very few have

found the peace that true submission to God brings into their lives. Without submission, we cannot find the victory that God wants for us in our lives. Without submission, we cannot learn what it means to walk in the Spirit instead of our flesh. Without this, we cannot walk in the redemption that the Lord has for us.

What does it mean to submit to God? We hear Christians pray, "Lord I want less of me and more of you. I want people to see Jesus in me". But then they go their way doing their own thing never mindful of the power of the Holy Ghost inside them waiting to guide them into a walk with God full of the supernatural. They don't submit to God. They eventually fall by the wayside because they are too weak to stand against the battle of this world and satan. If they would have submitted to God, His Word, and the power of the Holy Ghost, they could have moved mountains. They never submitted enough to know. If we are so busy being full of ourselves, and doing our own thing, monopolizing our own life, then where can God fit in. Even if we have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, if we never allow Him to be Lord of who we are, then what good does it do? Many times we can be so full of ourselves that there is no room for God. I can find out who is Lord of someone's life by their conversation. If I hear people that all they can talk about is themselves

or their flesh centered life, then I know who is Lord of their life. God can't live inside of us until we submit the old man, and let His new man in us rise up. We can't do it on our own. The more we try to break ourselves, the more of ourselves we will have. God has to do that work in us. If we never let Him do this, if we never yield to Him, then we will never be able to walk in the total redemption that He has died to give us.

A relationship with Jesus comes in layers sometimes. We have to peel a layer off us, to gain a layer of Jesus. It is just like with any relationship. We have to give of ourselves to have a deep relationship with someone. My husband and I have been married for going on 30 years. The first 20 or so years were filled with one or the other of us. Praise the Lord, the last several years have been filled with both of us. We finally have come to the place where we are a we instead of a she and a he. That isn't bad English, that is just saying that we are one. We still have our little battles, and we love it. (Boy, that isn't what you expected me to say, I am sure. Sometimes it is good to blow up. We have learned to yell, scream, get it out, and 5 minutes later go on. That is a wonderful stress reliever. Sometimes in a marriage, we think we shouldn't fight. Fighting can be a key to having a good relationship. We hash things out loudly,



then get over it and go on.) Anyway, back to explaining the we thing. For many years we had a power struggle because of fear of submitting or just because we didn't want to give up our way. Because of that, I really didn't know him, and he really didn't know me. Only when we yielded to one another did we truly get to know one another to the place where we could walk together and be one. Now I would rather be with Jim than be with anyone I know. I love him and he loves me, and we know this.

A relationship with the Lord comes the same way. We have to get over the power trip. Sad to say, some Christians never do. They die never knowing that sweet peace that comes by yielding to the Lord and finding a oneness with Him. They don't want to give up their self will. Sometimes people are afraid to yield, sometimes they are too spoiled to do so. Sometimes they just don't take time to get to know the Lord enough to do so. It takes time to build a relationship with the Lord. It isn't that they don't mean not to, they just don't take the time. When you steal away in the morning hours and raise your hands to heaven and praise Him for His goodness, when you bask in His sweet Spirit, when you sit and listen and let Him uncover the riches of His love through the pages of His Word, you will begin to get to know Him. Through the sweetness of His love,

you will yield. As you yield layers of yourself, you will see layers of Him.

I am one of those people who get their heads down, go through whatever you have to go through to get it done kinds of people. I am one of those kinds of people who don't like to ask for help. Leave me alone, and I can move a mountain. I am not naturally inclined to yield. None of us are really, that isn't human nature. Praise the Lord, though, I have come to several places in my life when all I could do is lay there and trust the Lord to protect my life and bring me through the valley that I was in because my world was rocking so hard that one little shake and it all would have been down on my head. Praise the Lord, I have been through those times the devil tried to kill me and in one second he would have succeeded, but God stepped in and that was over with. Praise the Lord, I have been through those times when the flood waters were over my head, and I was already gone, but God put out His hand and the storms ceased. If you don't know what it is to go through these times, then you have no idea what it means to yield to God. God can humble us in a second. God can bring us to the place where we cry uncle, and we will go forth from there changed and yielded to the one who is Lord of all. I praise God for the valleys. Mountains are wonderful, but it is the valley that will cause you to lay down your

stupid self, and follow Jesus. It is the valley where you can sit on His lap because you are tired that you can't go on, and then you yield to His sweet peace. It is in the valley where you find that you can be less of you but praise God, you can find that you can be so much more of Him.

When I think of yielding to the Lord, I am reminded of my aunt. I was blessed not long ago to spend a month taking care of someone I loved very much who was dying with cancer. I can without a doubt say that was one of the worst times of my life. I can also say that during that time I received more from God, and grew more than at any time I have ever been through. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything in my life, even the best of times when everything was great. Now you may be thinking that this was one of the best times in my life because God won the victory over cancer and she was healed. No, this may sound strange, but hear me out. I really don't think that would have changed my life as much as what happened. We serve a mighty powerful God who has promised us that even our worst times can turn into miracles. (Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.") I know without a shadow of doubt that this verse is

true. Why? Because I have been through the fire. I have been through fires that literally broke my flesh, so that I had nothing left but God. I have been in places where only God could fix the battle, and when He moved, I knew that it was Him and only Him. I have walked with Him, and I know what He will do for me tomorrow, because yesterday, He was there with me. In this very difficult time in my life, I again learned what this means.

One of the blessings that came out of the fire with me was this. When my aunt lay dying, for days all she could do was swallow water dripped out of the end of straw. She had no strength left. She praised the Lord for each sip of water that she took. When all she had was strength to move her little hand that was just skin and bones up and wave it in praise, that was what she did. She did it until she went into the sleep when she died. I learned something that changed my life forever. We serve a mighty big and wonderful God. We don't have to be afraid of anything the devil or this world has. When we as children of God can lay in the chains of cancer, dying, and still find the victory in God to praise Him, what in this world do we have to fear. What can defeat us, other than we ourselves? I also learned that death is a precious thing. It is hard to watch someone grow helpless inch by inch and have their life

slowly taken away. But through this I gained a life-changing glimpse, an understanding of what it means to surrender to God, and its importance. My aunt fought death in a tremendous battle that went on for weeks. Then I watched God deal with her to surrender. He was her strength to be able to help her with this last and greatest surrender that she would have to make. First she had to surrender the issues of her life that had to be resolved. I watched her go through a time when she had to let God's Spirit do its final conviction, when He groomed and made ready His bride. Then she went through a time when I knew she was interceding in her spirit for people that she had had burdens for in her life. How did I know that this was so? Because one by one, as she surrendered them to God, He worked miracles. Then I watched her surrender herself totally to the hands of God.

One night she passed away. I was asleep myself when she died. The quickening power of the Holy Ghost woke me up from a sound sleep. The Holy Ghost was so strong in the room. I knew before anyone told me that her last surrender was done. I caught a glimpse that night of God's glory that waited for her on the other side. Life is a succession of surrenders, and the last and greatest surrender leads to our last and greatest reward. If we never yield our

self will, we will never find this victory. I am convinced if we never do, we will never make heaven our home.

You can want it your way if you want to. You can go on proving that you belong and that you are right. You can go on with a contentious fighting spirit fighting against giving into God's love and His Word. You can go on struggling to prove you can handle it. As for me, leave me in peace, resting in my Father's arms. Leave me trusting in Him to take care of it all, submitted to Him, letting Him control my life and me. When I face death and that last struggle, I know that it will be with the same victory that He has kept me in through my life.

Thank God that the Holy Ghost knows how to prove us wrong, and knows how to bring us to the place of surrender to Him. I see so many pastors, and preachers who are so full of themselves and so proud. They strut around like peacocks in themselves. When they minister, they are so full of themselves that Jesus can't do anything. Very little is really accomplished in their ministering. Give me someone who yields, and says, "God I am nothing. Please come fill me and use me." They will get the job done.

My prayer is this. “God, prove me wrong in You. Love away my struggle to control. Let me roll on the ground in defeat if that is what it takes to bring me to the place of surrender, so that I can find what it means to find victory in YOU. Put me on the potter’s wheel. Break me and make me into something that you can use. I’m tired of my old flesh and its natural ways, and I am ready for the supernatural. God, I am starting to surrender. Finish that work in me. I can’t wait to see what I will then be.” When we come to that place, we can find what it means to be redeemed from ourselves. Then is when God can begin to use us in a supernatural way. Until we can lay down the natural, we will never be used in a supernatural.

Another tool God uses to bring us to submission in helping us overcome ourselves is His Word. Bury yourself in God’s Word. Let His Holy Ghost write Its pages in your heart. It has the power to change you. (Hebrews 4:12, “For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”) We can’t just read the words. We have to allow God’s Spirit to make them alive. Then we have to obey them.

Another tool God uses is His Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost will flow in your heart and mind and bring you into subjection to Him. Submit to Him. Let Him move in your heart. Don't ever stop Him. When you feel the Holy Ghost start to move, throw up your hands and let Him move on and through you. Spend time in prayer. If you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, spend time praying in tongues. If you don't have it, then seek it. It is a gift that God gives His children. It is for you, too.

When we are redeemed from ourselves, we can finally obey the Lord. Until we yield, we can't. When we submit, then we can obey, and our own will won't get in the way. And the more we obey the more submission is loosed in us. Obedience is another tool to bring us into submission. Obedience is not a once in a while act of doing something for the Lord. It is a condition of the heart and mind. We make ourselves available for His use, and submit ourselves to Him. That way we can reach out with His hands, go with His feet, speak His Words, and touch those around us in a way that only He can. We can do supernatural things for the Lord, if we will only yield our flesh to the place where He can use us. We can turn our world upside down, lead our family to the Lord, start a revival in our workplace, be used of the Lord in a mighty way, if we will only let God



redeem us from ourselves enough to be able to obey Him.

We have been redeemed from ourselves, our flesh. God breaks us and brings us to the place of submission. Then we can stand in victory over ourselves, our flesh, and declare to a lost and dying world, "I have been redeemed."

## **Chapter 5. Redeemed From Satan**

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden they basically sold us out to the power of satan. The devil is a very real enemy. He'd like to disguise himself so that we think he isn't real. An old saying goes like this, "If he isn't fighting you, then that means he's got you already and is making you think he isn't there." He uses all kinds of things to trap us. I've watched him lay a trap for someone for years, bringing condemnation against them. He would cause circumstances to discourage them and bring people into their life to bring them to compromise. These people would sow jealousy and bitterness in their heart, bringing negative attitudes against them. He would cause them to fall every time they got up. Yes, he is a real enemy. Praise God the devil may be an enemy, but we have been redeemed from the power of satan.

One of the best ways to fight any enemy is by understanding his tactics. It is the same with satan. Let's look at some of the things that he tries. The devil isn't obvious. His evil is much more powerful than the spooky movies where he scares everybody. He is much more dangerous than that. He is more dangerous because he isn't so scary, because he isn't so

obvious. He destroys people in a subtle way. Here are some of his favorite weapons:

### 1. Condemnation

He will say to you, “You can’t serve God. Look at what you did last week. You don’t need to try any more. You will only fail.” He is good at condemning us for our mistakes. He’ll bring people around that have a critical spirit and he’ll cause us to have one ourselves. How do you win against this weapon? Don’t concentrate on yourself. Concentrate on God’s Word. That is what he has to listen to. Use the scripture against him. God’s Word says in Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” John 3:18, “He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. “John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” We have been redeemed from condemnation through the blood of Jesus, if we confess our sins and repent. Satan is the

accuser of the brethren. God does not accuse us. If you hear accusations, identify and notify. Tell satan to leave you alone. Now if it is conviction that you feel because of your sin, don't dismiss that. God will correct you, chastise you, and convict you, but the One who sent His son to die for your forgiveness will never condemn you.

## 2. Self-justification

Along with condemnation comes self-justification. Satan will condemn us making us feel defeated. He will cause us to feel like no matter how hard we try, or how much we want to do right, we can't. Then he'll start whispering things in our head like, "It's OK. You failed. Everyone does. That doesn't matter. That's just being human." Or He will get you to twist God's Word to excuse your sin. He can get us so busy justifying our sin and excusing it away that we never admit it, confess it, or repent. If we never repent we won't be able to go to heaven. Unrepented sin won't be allowed in. Don't let satan trap you into self-justification. (Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly

pardon.”) If we don’t repent, how can God pardon.

### 3. Rebellion

Another trap the devil sets is by bringing rebellion into our hearts. We live in a world that constantly preaches rebellion in its music, its books, its movies, even the commercials on TV brainwash us into a rebellious attitude. I see so many people that are bound by this to the point that if they know they need to do something or if God is leading them in a certain direction, they will do the opposite and don’t even know why. You have to seek God’s face and ask Him to help you identify if satan is bringing a rebellious attitude against you. You have to identify and notify. Identify the problem and notify satan that in the name of Jesus you no longer will walk in that bondage. You have been redeemed from rebellion.

### 4. The world

We already covered how satan uses the world to get us involved in a rat race life with no time left for God. Our priorities get all out of line before we realize it. How long has it been since you woke up and first

thing put your life in God's hands to lead you and made yourself available to obey Him? Who and what is in control of your life? If God isn't the Lord of your life, then you may as well assume that the devil is.

## 5. Other people

The devil always has a crowd that works for him. I don't mean demon possessed, vampire-like people. He has people that he controls. Many of them sit on the church pews every Sunday. If we don't let Jesus control us, if we don't submit to Him and His Spirit inside of us, then our flesh will be used by the devil. The flesh is enemy against God. The devil rules our flesh whether we mean for him to or not. If we are not active in our relationship with God and our obedience then the devil will use our passiveness. By doing nothing we become the devil's tools. The devil can use our family members, especially those that aren't saved. Young people especially can fall prey to the traps of satan. He will send you someone that you think is the greatest in the world that you can't do without. If you aren't careful he will use them to bind you away from serving God, and you will eventually wish you never knew them. The Bible says wisely not to be unequally yoked.

(II Corinthians 6:14, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?”) Don’t let people bind you.

## 6. Bitterness and hurt

Everywhere I go I see people who were hurt in church and quit serving God. One of the saddest examples I know was my own Dad. Church people hurt him when he faced a tragedy in his life. He reached out to them, and they hurt him in a way that nearly destroyed him. He went back to church only a few times before he died. He did give his heart to the Lord before he died, praise God. People will fail you. Don’t let the weakness of people stop you from finding God’s eternal love, His will and word for your life, and prevent you from doing both. I have known Him most of my life and He has never let me down. I have let Him down, but He has never failed me. People will fail you. But we serve a never failing God. Keep your eyes on Him. He will heal your scars and hurts. You have to forgive those that hurt you. God’s Word says if you don’t forgive, He won’t forgive you. (Luke 11:4, “And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive

every one that is indebted to us....”) When you can’t forgive, He can help you. Remember He is in your heart. You have to be willing. Bitterness is a sin. It has to be confessed and repented of and gotten rid of just like any other sin. When you get to heaven you won’t remember all those that hurt you. If you become bitter and allow it to rule your heart and pull you away from serving God, you will spend eternity with those who hurt you. Which will it be?

## 7. Rejection

Sometimes when we have been rejected and we allow that to eat at us, we can pull away from people. When we pull away from people, we also begin to pull away from God. Especially when the devil is there to rub this rejection in our faces. (I John 4:20, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”) Let God heal your hurt and give you the love you need. Rejection and bitterness can destroy us. God wisely even told us to love our enemies. Through the love of Jesus who is in our heart, we can even do that. You have been redeemed from the power of rejection.



## 8. Double-mindedness

Satan tries to use this against those who are trying to serve God with all their heart. He will buffet you until you hardly know which way to go. He will cause you to doubt that you have heard God's will and way for you. He will scramble up your priorities. He will discourage you and make you think you can't or if you try you will only fail. He will bring things in your life to pull you to the side and cause you to be half hearted in serving God. All these will cause you to become double minded. (James 1:8, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Verse 7, "For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.") Seek God and ask Him to show you if you have become double minded. Identify, and notify. Then stand ye therefore.

## 9. Negative thinking

There is no room on the plate of a child of God for a helping of negative thinking. When we have all of the promises of God to keep us, and the power of God to shield us, there is no room for fear and doubt, and unbelief. We live in a negative world, but we are not to think like it does. We have no

time to entertain negative thoughts that totally disagree with God's Word. The Bible calls fear and doubt sin, and that is what it is. Let God redeem you from negative thinking.

## 10. Addictions

I wrote this book in 2003, and in 2013 I revised it adding some things. This section that I am writing now is one section that I added. It is a very timely section. Every where I go, I see Christians who are addicted. Their addiction slowly drains their spiritual health to the place where they have no victory in God. It chokes the life out of them to the place where they lose their salvation. Now you may think that I am about to say addiction to drugs, or alcohol, or illicit sex things. Those are all true. (Sad to say, the church is addicted to drugs. When you let God redeem you for real, you won't need to find your peace of mind in a pill bottle. You won't need to find the cure for your anxieties in a pill bottle. You will find them in Jesus. We can't lead drug addicts on the street to finding deliverance, because we are too brain addled by our prescription medicines.) But I am not talking mainly about drugs here. (I could put another little side note here about

alcohol. We can't lead alcoholics to finding deliverance from their drinking problems because we can't get the alcohol out of our own shelves enough to do it. Sure God said take a little wine for your stomach sake, but you can't see where a good doctor ever prescribed a quart of medicine a little stomach problem. Get real. If you are drinking it for the effects of the alcohol in it, you are an alcoholic. Don't use the Bible to justify your problem.) I am not talking mostly in this little section about these things, though I am mentioning them, but I am talking about something that is more damning than either of those because it is seemingly harmless. When the devil invents a price winning soul destroyer, he doesn't come up with something that is so evident that everybody stays away from it. He comes up with something that looks fine that packs a deadly blow. I am talking about one of his price sould destroyers here. It destroys our mental peace. It destroys our relationship with God because it is so addictive that we have no time left for Him. It sucks the spiritual life out of us. It destroys our families and homes because we have no time left for them. It wraps our minds up in the warped world that God has delivered us and redeemed us from. I am talking about the addiction to social media.

I am talking about Facebook, texting, and the whole worldly drama scene. If you are addicted to it, you know right away what I am talking about. If you can't drive down the road without texting, then God help you and us too. If you can't lay down your phone for a day without texting, and pick up your Bible instead, then you are closer to hell than you think. The devil has isolated you, and is ready to pick you off. If you have more friends on Facebook than you do on the church pew, then the devil is getting ready to destroy your life. You can shake your head and say this is all bull if you want to, or you can get real and seek God's deliverance. That choice is yours. Whether we are talking about social media addiction, drug addiction, alcohol, or whatever addiction, God will redeem you. He will buy you back from this mess. You have to realize that you are addicted. You have to realize the damage that it can cause to you and those your love. Then you have to submit it to God, yield it to Him. He can deliver you. You can find victory in Him.

These are some of the tools that satan can use against us. Through God's Word we have been given power to tread on satan and put him under our heel. In the name of Jesus, through the power of God's Word, through the blood of

Jesus, through the power of the Holy Ghost within us, we are given power to overcome satan. We need to discern the spirits that come against us. This war is not a physical war. We cannot see our enemies. Ephesians 6:12 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.” Discernment allows us to see the battle, so that we won’t be consumed by it. The only way that we can be defeated is if we fail to see the battle coming.

God has given us all we need to fight the war, and be victorious. Verses 13-18 tells us, “Wherefore take unto ye the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” We have a battle, yes. But do we need to be

afraid? The answer is no. Not when we have on the armor of God. We have been given authority over satan. We have been redeemed.

## **Chapter 6. Redeemed From Death**

Because of Jesus, we are even redeemed from death. The Bible tells us that death no longer has a sting, and the grave no longer has a victory over us. Isaiah 25:8 tells us, “He will swallow up death in victory: and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces....” I Corinthians tells us, “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” I Corinthians 15:54, “So when this corruptible, shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” II Timothy 1:10, “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” We can say with Paul “to live is Christ but to die is gain”. (Philippians 1:21)

We have even been redeemed from the sting of death. Death is nothing to fear. It is really life. I have known people that were so afraid of death that they never lived. This isn't the way God's people should be. We can even find His victory in death. To find this redemption, we need to be sure that we live everyday walking with Him and obeying Him, with our relationship with Him a number one priority.

That way, if death does find us, we will be just trading homes.

Everywhere I go any more I see people who have been given diagnoses that they have some sort of terminal condition. Have you noticed that or is it just me that there are more and more of this kind of thing. It isn't just older people any more, but young people as well. Because of this, more and more people experience a fear of death. When Bishop Goad counsels with people who have been given a diagnoses that they are terminal, or if they have gone through something that has left them close to death, he has some wonderful advise to give them. He tells them to get ready to die. He tells them to be sure that everything is right between them and the Lord in their relationship with Him. He tells them to make it right between them and anyone around them. He tells them to get their worldly affairs, their financial and legal affairs in order. Then he tells them to get up and live. One of the things that someone who is facing death has to overcome to be able to live, is the fear and stress of dealing with death. If you are afraid to die, you will die. Stress is a killer. If you have peace with God, with those around you, and with your worldly affairs, then the stress is gone. God can then get through to you to be able to heal you. If you are facing death, trust Him. He knows what He is doing. Seek



His face. Find out if it is your time to go, and if it isn't then get up off your sick bed and let God heal you.

You don't have to fear death. You have been redeemed from death. Death has no hold over you. You can be like Paul when he says in Philippians 1:20-21, "According to my earnest expectiaion and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." He was on death's row facing a death sentence. He found victory if the decision was to live, and he found victory if the decision was to die. When you do that, you win either way. You have been redeemed from death.

This little part here is from a book I have written titled, *There Is Hope*. We can find hope even in death. In John Chapter 11 we read the story of Lazarus. Lazarus had two sisters, Mary and Martha. They were all Jesus' good friends. Lazarus got very sick. We are not sure how long he was sick. We do know that Mary and Martha tried to find Jesus, but couldn't. They knew that He would be able to help Lazarus. Watching people get sick and die is a hard thing. Not being able to find help for them makes it even harder. I had an aunt that had

lymph cancer. I stayed with her for a month while she was dying. Nobody could help her. Doctors told me just to make her comfortable until she died. There was nothing else anybody could do. That was a really hard time. I know what Mary and Martha went through. Bad news. When they couldn't find Jesus there wasn't any hope of any good news.

Lazarus died. In those days, in that place, they buried people in caves hewn out of rock with huge stones to seal it up like a door. The ground was so hard and rocky in this part of the world that they couldn't dig graves the way we do here. Lazarus was sealed in the tomb for 4 days. Bad news altogether.

We don't know exactly how old Lazarus was, but you get the feeling from the story that this was not an expected thing. We get a feeling that it was sudden and devastating to his family. Just like cancer is to families today. When my aunt died, it wasn't easy. It isn't ever easy to lose people that way. There wasn't much hope during the last part of her sickness and during her death. We may go through times like this that seem really dark with little hope. We just have to hold on and keep on going. Things will get better. They certainly did for Mary and Martha. How could that be? Lazarus had died. How can you find hope after something as bad

as this? They hadn't forgotten their best friend. I'm sure Jesus was in their thoughts during this time. There was something though that puzzled them. They had sent a messenger to Jesus telling Him how sick Lazarus was. I'm sure that the messenger told Jesus the bad news just as it was. Jesus did something that puzzled them all. Even though He knew that Lazarus was dying, instead of going right away, Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. Then He told His disciples that they were going to Bethany because Lazarus was dead. Then He made the statement that He was glad for their sakes that it was so. Wow. You might think, with friends like this, who needs enemies. Nobody had a clue of what was going on, but God had a plan. God was getting ready to turn some really bad news into good news. When Jesus got to Bethany which was Lazarus' home town, first Mary and then Martha ran to Him and they both said the same thing. "Jesus if you would have been here my brother wouldn't have died." Jesus had been their last hope, but Lazarus had still died.

When my aunt was sick with lymph cancer, a lot of people prayed that God would touch her and make her well. That wasn't hard for us to believe because our family knew what God could do. God had healed my mother from the same kind of cancer several years before that.

With Jesus, there is always hope. My Mom was healed and from that time on has been cancer free. She was totally and completely healed. God is good. That has been many, many years ago. Mary and Martha knew that Jesus could make a difference. I think too that they knew for some reason Jesus had purposefully not come back in time to help Lazarus. They had to know that the messenger they had sent had found Jesus and delivered the message to Him. I'm sure nobody understood why Jesus did what He did, but you could tell from their conversation that they still trusted and believed in Him and what He could do. We see this in John 11:21-27. "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. ....She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou are the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world." Even though she had some bad news, she still trusted in Jesus. That is a key. When the news is bad, it doesn't change the fact that we can still trust in the Lord.

What about my aunt? It was really hard to watch her die and not be able to do anything about it. We couldn't understand why God hadn't healed her like He had healed my Mom. Her pain wasn't so bad that she couldn't bear it.

Usually cancer patients with this kind of cancer suffer a lot worse than she did. God gave her strength and peace until the day that He took her and gathered her up in His arms to be with Him. It was hard to let her go. It was a bad news time all around. Or was it?

We are living during a time when bad news is all around. We are living during a time when it is easy to lose hope. Mary and Martha did too, but they knew something. Or rather I could say that they knew Someone. Thank God that during the time when my aunt died, I knew someone too. That someone was the same someone that they knew. Isn't that cool. The same one that comforted them that day was the same one that comforted me. The same words that they heard at Lazarus tomb were the same words that I heard at my aunt's funeral. John 11:25-26 tells us how Jesus answered Martha. "Jesus saith unto her; Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. He didn't even have to go in. He just stood at the entrance and cried out, "Lazarus, come forth." And Lazarus did.

Plainly and simply put, Lazarus just got up and walked right out. Can you imagine all that rejoicing that went on. Even though things looked bad, they kept their hope. When Jesus came on the scene, things got better. The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 as being, “The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Looking at Lazarus’ tomb, Mary and Martha didn’t have much hope. But when Jesus got there, they saw something to hope for. They saw evidence of God who they couldn’t see. They knew that somehow things would get better. When Lazarus walked out of that tomb, it wasn’t just something that they hoped for. It became something that was real, something that they could see. That is what faith is. It is faith that gives us hope. Faith means that we believe and trust in God through the bad news knowing that it is going to get better.

What about my aunt? Did God bring her back from the dead like He did Lazarus? In a way no, in a way yes. There was a reason why the preachers at her funeral quoted the same words that Jesus told Mary that day. “I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though He were dead, yet shall He live.” Those words weren’t spoken just to comfort Lazarus’ family, but they have also been a comfort to God’s people down through time as

they stood at the gravesides of their loved ones. Jesus is still the resurrection. Not even death is final. If you could ask my aunt today, she could tell you Lazarus' side of the story. She was dead, but now she lives. She could tell you how wonderful heaven is, everyday spent in a perfect place with Jesus, the One who met her when she died. The One who cried out, "Come Forth". The One who took her by the hand and led her to her promised land. Dying and death is some of the worst news you can hear about. But even death isn't the final bad news. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, our hand in His hand, and our faith in Him, we have hope. Death where is your sting, O grave, where is your victory? We have been redeemed from death.

There is another redemption that is coming. That is the redemption of all things. The Bible tells us in Luke 21:28 to, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." There will come a day mentioned in Luke 21 when the heavens and the earth and all things in it will be redeemed completely and totally by the One in Revelations who is worthy to redeem it all. (Revelations 5:9, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and

people, and nation.”) All those who allow Him to reign as Lord in their lives will be redeemed as well. Everything, including God’s children, will be restored to perfection that we were created to have in the beginning before Adam and Eve’s sin. We will be redeemed one final time. Oh, what a wonderful time that will be. Nothing is worth coming between us and the Savior who will redeem us on that day. Nothing is worth missing this final act in our redemption. Whatever you do, don’t miss it. Ephesians 4:30, “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”



## **Chapter 7.**

### **Redeemed From Your Past**

When I think of being redeemed from a past, I think of this certain lady. You will remember her. She met Jesus at a well one day. He gave her living water. You can read about her in John 4. When she met Jesus, He told her about herself. She couldn't deny it. She couldn't justify it. She couldn't lie to herself. She just repented. Gloriously she was saved. She went out from there crying out to everybody who would listen, "Come see a man, who told me all things that ever I did: Is not this the Christ?" They knew she had been with Jesus. She stepped out into a new future, and she was not ashamed of her past. She knew everybody knew, and she went on into a new thing in the Lord. Why was she so excited? Why did she run around telling everybody? God had delivered her. Jesus had loved her in spite of all she had done.

I think of a woman whose story is found starting in Luke 7:36. This woman came into the Pharisee's house where Jesus was. She stood at his feet weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears. She wiped them with her hair. She was a sinner, and everybody knew that. The Pharisee said, "This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what

manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.” Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee.” “There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?” Simon missed a lot of things that night, but he did get the answer to that one right. Jesus went on to say, “Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss; but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint, but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

Wow. I love this. I love it because I was this kind of woman. God saved me and delivered me from a life of sin. There was nothing that I hadn't done when I was running away from Him. I know what I am capable of doing without God. I know who I am without God. Like the song says, His hand reached further down than I could reach up. I had no hope. I had nothing without Him. When I found Him

there, and He bid me come into His house and feast, I washed His feet with my tears. There were others around me who said, who let her in, but Jesus said, my Father did, my grace did, my love did, and He opened His door to me. That is why I love Him much, because He forgave me of much. I have served Him for nearly 30 years, and the devil still will try to condemn me of my past. I have learned when he does that to remind him of his future. I wonder if I would still be on fire for the Lord if I had not come to Him reaping all the consequences of my sin. When He delivered me, I loved Him enough to hold on to Him through whatever came for the last 30 years, because I knew He loved me enough to hold onto me.

God will even make a blessing out of your past if you will let Him. You can either let the devil beat you to death with it, or you can give it to God and let Him make a miracle out of it. All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord and who are the called according to His purpose. All things. All things. Just to be sure you hear that, I said all all all all things. Even your past. I have taught school for most of 30 years. I have worked with young people during that time counseling them. When I start counseling them, they know that I know what I am talking about. They know that I have been there and done that. I understand what they are

going through while they reap the heartaches of their sin. I have been there and done that. They know this and respond to that. God has used this to help turn around hundreds of lives. God can turn your past into a blessing, if you will let it go and give it to Him.

God is definitely a God of today and a God of tomorrow. He is also a God that keeps your past. When we let Him come into our lives, and be Lord of our lives, He makes all things new. He loves to resurrect. He doesn't just forgive us from our past sins. He makes us new in Him. Here are some verses about how God makes us new.

Isaiah 42:9, "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth shall ye not know it?...."

II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Read the rest of this section of scripture down to verse 21.

God does a new thing. When you let Him have control, and you let His Spirit rule in you, you will day to day be made new in Him.

One of the hardest struggles that people have when they are coming from a life bound with sin into a life filled with God is condemnation. The devil is a master at bringing up our past. We have remember that God has made us new, and that the old man is dead. When the devil tries to condemn us we remember Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." We have to walk in the Spirit. When we do, our past is under the blood of Jesus, forgiven and forgotten. We are free. We have been redeemed from our past.

One of the ways that our past can control us is when we fail to let go of it. I know people who are constantly bombarded by things from their past. This happens because they won't let go of the past. By this I mean that there are things that they are holding on to. God can't totally make them new, because of this. For example, I remember a time when I was struggling with a bondage from the past. No matter how hard I fought, I couldn't get out from under this thing. God showed me that this battle existed because I had unforgiveness against someone from my

past. I wouldn't forgive this person. The bondage that they had in their life was coming against me because I wouldn't forgive them. When I forgave them this set me free. I couldn't forgive on my own, but through God's help through His Spirit in me, I was able to. I won the victory over this part of my past because I forgave.

Another thing that can keep us bound to things in our past is that the devil will make certain things look good. He will disguise them and make them seem not as bad as they really were. We will start considering this certain thing from our past, and even begin to long for that part of our lives again. We can become double minded about this thing and we no longer are able to stand against the devil when he comes to tempt us. We begin to slowly compromise in this area. Then we fall. We have to give up those things which are behind us. We have to press on with everything in us. Philippians 3:14 tells us, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We have to press on. We can't look back. We have to keep our face toward the plow. God is a God of pressing onward, not a God of looking back.

Another thing that can keep us bound to the past is continuing to be bound by people that are from our past. These people may be dear

friends, or family members. You have to come apart from having close association with these people. (II Corinthians 6:14, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?) That doesn’t mean that we don’t love them, or reach out to them to lead them to the Lord. This does mean that we do these things at a distance, guarding our spirit from becoming bound to them. The devil will tell you that you have to be soul mates with them to win them to the Lord. If we compromise with them to keep them, we will not only loose ourselves but them as well. Then what will we have gained. Handle your associations with sinners and with those from your past with care.

Another thing that can keep you bound to your past is not accepting total and complete forgiveness for your past sins. God has separated our sins from us so that they are forgotten, if you have repented and asked forgiveness. Yesterday is gone, and you are a new creation in Him. Or we might be just holding onto our hurt and not giving it up to God. Sometimes we can dwell on our past until it becomes a bondage. The best thing that we can do is forget it. Modern day psychiatrists teach that we should dwell on these things until

we can come to terms with them. Without the grace of God, we will never come to terms with them even if we dwell on them for 100 years. We need to let them go, give them to God, ask for His deliverance and healing, and go on into the wonderful future that He has for us. Sometimes the one thing that may keep us from walking into the wonderful God filled future of promise that He has for us, is dwelling in the past. Get out of the past. Give it to God. Look ahead.

We have been redeemed from our past. Our past is forgiven and forgotten. If we will let it go, we are delivered from what is behind. We can press on to that mark of our high calling. We are redeemed from our past. The promises of God await us.



## **Chapter 8.**

### **The Price of Redemption**

When we were young in Sunday school we learned the words, “Jesus died for our sins so that we could be redeemed, saved.” We have repeated them all of our lives. Few of us have realized the power that this holds. When we do, it will change our lives.

When we say saved it really is another way of saying redeemed. To be redeemed is to be bought back from, delivered from, set free from. Another way of saying that is to say we are saved from these things. We’ve talked about what we are redeemed from, let’s talk about who redeemed us, how, and why? We know that Jesus had a lot to do with it. Let’s look all the way to the beginning of time.

Jesus is the Son of God we know. Do you know that He wasn’t really born at Christmas? Let me explain. Jesus came to earth when He was born of Mary, but did you know that before that He lived in heaven with God and was a part of God? John 1:1-12 explains. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life;

and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (Skip to verse 9) That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He 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.”

Who was the Word that this talks about? In verse 14 we find out. “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.” Who is that Word that was at the beginning of time in heaven with God? Jesus. He even appeared on earth several times, one of which was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. In verse 25, “He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” So Jesus was in heaven with God and equal with God before He was born on earth. He became a baby and was born from a little Jewish girl, Mary. This happened through the power of the Holy Ghost. I don’t understand how it happened, but if I were as smart as God and

understood everything, I wouldn't be hanging around here, but in heaven. It doesn't matter that we understand it all or not. It just matters that it is so.

This tells us part of the sacrifice that was paid for our redemption. Jesus left a perfect world in heaven with His Father to be born here on earth as a baby. (Talk about submission. Have you ever thought of this? Jesus, the king of glory, Lord of Lords, once had to have his diaper changed. Talk about humility.) He knows what it is like to live on earth and go through the things we have to. He knows what its like to be 3, 16, 30. He was in human form like us. (Hebrews 4:15, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.") He overcame the world, flesh, death, hell, and the grave to redeem you from all of them. He sits at God's right hand today interceding, praying for you to overcome the weaknesses that He understands so well. So we can boldly come into the throne of grace. And there we know that we can find His help.

We know that God understands the future as well as He knows the past. When Genesis was

being written Revelations was already in His mind. When He gave John the Words of Revelations He already knew the world you live in today, and told him about it. So, when He created man we can know that He knew that man would sin, and that He would have to send His Son who had no sin to die to redeem them. Before He made Adam, He knew that He would have to watch His Son die between two thieves. Why did He go ahead and make man? He created man to have fellowship with, to love. John 17:21-23, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

Where was Jesus when God decided to make man? Right with Him at creation. (Genesis 1:26, “And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness....”) What a great love!!! When you feel that no one cares remember this. When you feel that you can’t overcome, remember Who redeemed you, the price they paid, and why. There is power in this chapter to overcome. Love gives you power to

overcome. This was the reason you are redeemed. This is the price that was paid. (Colossians 1:10-14, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.")

You have been redeemed. And oh how great was the love that redeemed you. What is it that we need to find? Ephesians 1:17-22 tells us, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raise Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.” Praise God, Praise God, Praise God.

How great was that price that was paid so that this scripture could come about in our lives. Why should we settle for anything less than the full promise of God? We are His body, His church, and His bride? The price that He paid for us was extreme. Jesus died to give to us certain things. We need to claim every one of them. “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?....Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded,

that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:31-39. “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 of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”, Philippians 3:7-14. Jude 24-25, “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless

before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Amen. Amen. Amen.

I started to begin this book with this chapter, then as things developed, I saw a need to put this near the end. The whole thing starts with this chapter. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice we can be redeemed. But I thought of something. I started out the book telling you what you were redeemed from. Then I wanted you to remember who redeemed you, and the price He paid for this redemption. Now you know how to be free. For heaven’s sake, go and be free. Jesus died to set you free. Jesus went through all He went through so you could be redeemed. Now go and be redeemed. Don’t waste His sacrifice and stay bound up in all your junk. Don’t waste His precious blood that He spilled for you to be redeemed. Don’t waste the suffering that He went through to give you victory. Don’t waste the price He paid to buy you back. You are bought with a precious price.

Do you remember at the beginning of the book in chapter 1 where we talked about how in Nehemiah’s time the people who owed a debt were even having to pay their children into slavery to be able to pay the debt. When Nehemiah came in and said, all debt is forgiven,



you have been redeemed, can you imagine how those people felt? I do not imagine that any of these people came back in to their debtor and said, “Hey, I want to keep owing that.” Sometimes though, isn’t that how we do Jesus. We need to realize that we are redeemed, and stay redeemed. The price has been paid. You do not have to stay bound any longer. Stand up. Go forth in the victory that God has purchased for you through His son, and walk in all that the Lord has for you. You are redeemed.

## Chapter 9. Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So

Now that we have gotten in our hearts and minds what it means to be redeemed, what we have been redeemed from, and the price that was paid for our redemption, its time to act on what we know. ***It is time for the redeemed of the Lord to say so. It's time for the redeemed of the Lord to live so.*** (Psalm 107:2, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.")

When God sends us a truth from His Word to help us, that is just the beginning. We can't act like it's the end. It's easy to know something, even tell it to others, and strut in how we know it. It gets harder when we get in reality about the thing and start to live by what we've learned for it to make a real difference to us and to the lives of those around us. If not we become just like the man in James 1:23-25, "For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.") For the Word of God to be a blessing to us we have to

not only read it, and understand it, we have to do it. We have to live it. This is, as the old saying goes, where the rubber meets the road. What are you doing with the understanding of God's Word that He has given you? It is time to live by it. It is time for the redeemed of the Lord to say so, and to live so.

When we understand something from God's Word we first need to repent for the times we haven't lived by it. To repent means to mourn because of how we have failed God and to make up our minds and heart completely and totally that with His help we will not do that again. If we do something to someone again and again, and each time we do it, we tell them we are sorry, will they think that we mean it? Yet we do God this way over and over. Saying I'm sorry is not repentance. Being heart sorrowful and resolving not to do it again, and with God's help, not doing it again, is repentance.

After we repent, then we have to believe that God can through the power of His Spirit inside of us, and His Word change us. We begin to confess and believe His Word. Anything that crops up that is contrary to His Word, we bind it because it is either the devil or our flesh, and His Word and His Holy Ghost have power over both. Then we speak positive. (Matthew 12:37,

“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”)

Let's put all this to practice. Let's say that we have a problem with fear. We are bound with constant fear. We read in God's Word that it is a sin to fear. We read that He has redeemed us from fear and gives us the power to overcome. We go to God's Word and read what there is to find about fear. (A good Strong's Concordance is great to have to look up things. It has every word that's in the Bible and tells where to find verses with that word.) The next step is to repent because of our fear, because we have found out through God's Word that what is not faith is sin, and we know that fear is definitely not faith. We repent and we know that we are forgiven. We pray and ask God to help us to overcome, and we let His Spirit rise up in us to overcome. (One of the key things to overcoming fear is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Seek it in God's Word, and ask Him to give it to you. It is a gift.) We begin to walk and talk without fear, sometimes even if we don't feel like it. Before long, it will be a reality in our lives. We refuse to accept anything else. We bind the devil and our flesh when they try to bring the fear back. We remember our redemption and the price paid. We accept it, and we walk in it. First, for all this to work, we have to 100% believe in it and

accept it. We have to make up our minds that we are tired of it, and that is enough of it. Then we ask God to give us His overcoming strength to fight against it.

One of the keys to receiving redemption from something is confessing it. As the verse said, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." Have you ever met anybody that was so bound by fear that every word that came out of their mouth was fearful. (I am still using fear as an example, but we have been redeemed from all sin, all weaknesses.) They would read the Word of God and get encouragement and strength from Its pages. They would allow the Spirit of God to move in their hearts to lift them up. Their heart and mind would start to line up with God's Word. Then their mouth would kick in and in 5 minutes they would talk themselves out of it all. Our mouth and our confessions can be our worst enemy. Refuse to confess negative things. Confess that you are a child of God. You have been redeemed from the thing that you are overcoming, and you are overcoming it through the power of God's Word, and His Spirit in you. Take in God's Word and confess that It is changing you and It won't come forth void. Confess that you are redeemed and the God says you are. Everyday begin your day confessing that you are free and redeemed. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

One of the things that you have to overcome is the people around you that are negative and don't understand how they can overcome this, and may not even see it. It's only by the grace of God that any of us see our weaknesses. Most of the time, we are the last ones to see something that is wrong in our lives. I had to work with someone that was so bound in fear that it caused them to have serious health problems. I was believing God for a healing, and their battle every day wore against my strength. The devil literally used them as a pipeline to pump defeat against me. (We have to remember when we are bound, we also bring bondage against those that are around us, but praise God, when we become victorious, we bring victory to them as well.) I started gritting my teeth against that person. That didn't work. It made me look like I didn't have the victory myself. Then I asked God to move that person out of my life. (Now understand, I was fighting for my life.) I got right ugly. (Have you ever been there?) Then I realized that I was the one having a problem here too. With God's help I started pulling myself up over all this. I genuinely began overcoming how they lived and thought. When all was said and done, God used them to help me overcome, and gain strength in my own life. Now I can thank God for allowing that person to be there in my life.

Have they overcome? Their working on it. And believe me that battle is easier for them since I got the victory.

It is easy to get in the flesh in our determination to change. We get determined that we will do it ourselves. We have to remember that only God can change us. We have to get determined to let Him, but we have to let His Word, His Spirit, and His redemption work in us. We have to submit our will to Him and become determined with His determination to do what we have to do. Then we have to allow Him to shape us on His potter's will. When we let His Word and His Spirit work in us, those around us will see a difference. We won't have to prove it. They will hear our life say-I am redeemed. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Let the redeemed of the Lord live so.

God's Word promises all the victory that we need. We can live like the Word of God promises, in all the promises that He has given us, or we can choose to live in defeat. Even if we fail to consciously choose and act on that choice, then we choose defeat. We have to make a choice to live as the redeemed of the Lord. In so doing we will find the victory that Jesus died to give us. Oh what a victory! That doesn't mean that we won't have battles. It doesn't mean that we won't see hard times. It

certainly doesn't mean that all will become a bed of rose petals. It does mean that in whatever we have to face, we remember that we are redeemed. It means that we know that God will not suffer us to be tried above that which we can stand. It means that we know that beyond that, He will make a way to escape. We are redeemed. That redemption is full and complete. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Let the redeemed of the Lord live so. Isaiah 43:1, "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."



## **Chapter 10.**

### **Redeemed and Delivered**

When I talk about deliverance people automatically think about movies like the Exorcist where people talk weird and their heads spin, and stuff like that. That is what the devil wants us to think. He doesn't want us to be in his control, so he causes us to be blinded where we can't understand what that means. We're even taught that if we are Christians he has no control over us. That is true in one sense. Christians cannot be possessed by the devil because the Spirit of God and the devil cannot dwell in the same vessel. But however, Christians can be oppressed and bound by the devil. This happens when they fail to walk in the liberty that God has for them. We can't say that the devil has no control over us. If that's true why are there so many bound up and miserable Christians, and why are there so many Christians that fall away from serving God. The devil has a sneaky way of controlling our minds and hearts. But we have to let him do so before he can control us. How does he get that control? It happens when we yield to him in a certain area of our life. If he keeps control over this one area, he will use this area to destroy us.

One area might be fear. If we don't refuse to allow fear to bind us, and we continually allow the devil to control this area of our life, eventually this fear will destroy us. Another area might be rebellion. If we aren't submitting an area of our life to God, then we are rebellious in this area. This rebellion will eventually destroy us. Another area is rejection and bitterness. Eventually these can destroy us away from God's love. Another area is insecurity. People get their eyes on those being blessed by God. They become jealous. If they would keep their eyes on what God is doing for them, they would be able to have their own blessings. However, they don't obey Him to get them. These are only some of the areas in which we need deliverance. The devil also gets control over us when we walk in the flesh, and we don't walk in the Spirit. The Bible tells us over and over that walking in the flesh will bring destruction. We can only overcome when we walk in the Spirit. This can only happen when we commit and submit to God.

God wants us to be totally and completely free to love and obey Him, and to love and serve one another, moving together as a mighty army in unity with Him. Jesus died to redeem us from all things so that we could be free. (John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.") Satan does not want you

to be free. He will constantly bring things against you to bind you up. He may use circumstances, your health, other people, and your finances, to bind you. We need to understand that the bondages that come against us are not rightfully ours as children of God, and refuse to accept them. Refuse to accept anything but total and complete deliverance from all the things he sends to bind you.

As we covered in an earlier chapter, one of the main things that we mostly need deliverance from is our own self. That is really hard sometimes. We have to let God show ourselves as we really are. We have to realize that by ourselves without God there is no good in us. We don't need to try to prove this to ourselves or to anyone else. We need to just be ourselves. God's Word can reveal who we are. It is sharper than any sword because it cuts down to the center of who we are and rips out things that aren't good. (Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.") It hurts when the Word of God gets hold of you, but what a wonderful feeling. What if there wasn't a standard in God's Word, and there was nothing to convict you? How could we ever

make it to heaven? I am glad that God chastises us. That means that He loves us enough to correct us. (Hebrews 12:6-7. “For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”) I can remember my parents saying before they punished me, “This hurts me as much as it hurts you.” I used to think to myself, “Yeah right”. As I grew older I learned what they meant. Chastisement doesn’t come from those who don’t love us. The ones who don’t love their children could care less what they do. I am glad that God isn’t that kind of parent. That is why it is so important to leave the Word of God as it is and not water it down to take out the conviction. That is why it is so important to allow the Holy Ghost to convict you even if it hurts and makes you uncomfortable. That correction comes from the love of a perfect, heavenly Father, Whose desire it is that you be able to spend eternity with Him.

As time goes on, I see more and more Christians who are living beneath their raising. They are not living as obedient sons. God is chastising them, but they keep on doing the same thing over and over until they no longer feel His chastisement. Then the thing that they are doing destroys them and others around

them. When we were kids we'd tell each other, "If you keep doing that you will get spanked so much that you will wind up with a callous on your behind." Well, I think that some people eventually get a callous on their heart, and that is far worse. Romans Chapter 1 tells about how this can turn out. Verse 28 and 32 tells us, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient. Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in them that do them." We need to get deliverance so that we can live as obedient sons.

I think one of the most cruelest bondages that people can live in is this. They live their lives as a Christian totally by what they think others think. They don't find a relationship with God, but base the Christian experience on what they think others around them expect. This might be others in the church, or a pastor and his wife, or family members maybe parents. I have been in this bondage and it is cruel. This can eventually bind you away from the love of those around you and eventually God's love. If someone thinks you should do this or that, you do it. If someone thinks you are acting or thinking wrong, you change, until someone else comes along that thinks you should act or think this

other way. Then the devil comes along and whispers into your mind that this person is thinking this about you. You know it isn't true. You start to feel condemned. You start to act out how you are feeling. Then people really react to how you are being. The whole thing started in your own head. These people cannot find their own identity in themselves, or in their relationship with God, or a relationship with any depth to it with other people. Eventually people react to this and pull away which makes them worse. What causes this? They are walking with others instead of walking with God. They are totally in the flesh instead of being in the Spirit. They are not walking and talking with God to find out where they stand, and what they need to work on in their lives. They are wide open to be destroyed.

How can you be delivered of this? First you have to identify, ask God to show you if this is your problem. Then you have to confess and repent. Then you have to notify the devil that this little trick of his is not working any more and serve notice on him. Remind him, and yourself, that you have been redeemed, set free. Claim God's Word that promises you deliverance. (Psalm 91:15, "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.") Call upon God and He promises that He will

deliver you. One of my favorite verses is the one that tells us that God can come and even give you a new heart and a new mind. Many times I have had to pray that prayer. He does. (Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.")

Another thing that the devil can use to bind you is emotions. The devil can cause you to feel all kinds of things. Women, you may face a greater battle with this than men do because of certain physical things that you face that can get your emotions all out of sorts. We can have feelings that we are totally rejected. We can have feelings that these people are really talking about us and putting us down. We can feel that there is no hope, and there be no reason or foundation for any of the things that we are feeling. That's when we have to remember that when we feel these things, we need to go to God. Ask Him what is going on. Find out if these feelings are just things you feel, or if they are things that are founded in what is really going on. Scars from the past can also cause you to have emotions that are not founded in what is going on. Especially the emotion of rejection. If you have been rejected before, it is easy for the devil to bring a feeling of rejection against you. We can't go by our feelings. We have to let the Spirit of God rule in our lives

instead of the feelings of the flesh. We need to be redeemed from these emotions that bind us.

We can also be bound from being able to feel emotions. I can remember hearing the testimony of someone who had been hurt so much as a child growing up that they had buried their feelings. God is love. It is very hard to open up your life completely to a God of love if this has happened to you. You have to let God deliver you from the scars of your past. You have been redeemed from the past. Look to the Lord Who is also the Lord of your future. He has a new you and a brand new world for you to be happy in.

Let God deliver you to be the redeemed child of God you are. This means deliverance from yesterday, today, and hope of deliverance tomorrow. Ask God to show you how the devil works and what to watch for. Don't allow things or people separate you from God. Remember that doing nothing is allowing the devil to control. To stay free you have to actively participate. You have to be on your guard and in touch with Jesus. You have to pray and seek God, and read His Word. Get a made up mind to walk in deliverance and refuse to accept anything but God's best in your life. The devil can send circumstances to get you bound, people to jerk you in the wrong direction



(even people you think you can trust who aren't walking close enough to God to keep the devil from using them). The devil can use the pride of life or work to bind you. He can send a boyfriend or girl friend, a job that requires you to work instead of going to church. He uses everything and everyone around you that has an area in their life that is not delivered and yielded to God. I don't tell you all this to put you in the bondage of fear, but so that you can be on the lookout, overcome, stay close to God, stay delivered, free and victorious in your life. Then you can tell them what it means to be wonderfully, wholly, and completely, delivered. You Are Redeemed.

## **Chapter 11.**

### **Fear Not For I Have Redeemed Thee**

Jeremiah 13:1 tells us, “But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel (and He who formed you) Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.” I know that I have spoken a lot in the last several chapters about fear. That is because we are living in a time when men’s hearts are surely failing them with fear. I have given this chapter to the “fear nots” of the Bible. If you are bound in fear or negative thinking, worry, stress, or doubt, let God reveal it to you and deliver you. Let God redeem you from the bondage of fear.

Peace of mind is a wonderful thing, and it is a God given right of the children of God. Being able to sleep in peace and be free of the torment of fear is a great thing. Having a sound mind is a promise of God. (II Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”) (I John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us.”) Fear comes when we try to live for God, but we follow Him far off because we let other things separate us. When we are at the feet of Jesus,

we can feel His love and know that there is nothing to fear. These are only a few of the “fear nots” in the Word of God

Genesis 15:1, “After these things the Word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision saying, fear not, Abram: I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.” He is the same for you.

Exodus 14:13, “...fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will shew to you today.... The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” You may not have people who are actually lined up in war against you, but you do have enemies. They may be the devil, sickness, financial problems, or whatever. Remember Who it is that is with you, and stand and see His salvation.

Deuteronomy 1: 21, “Behold the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord of the fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.” Your land may be areas you want to be delivered in, or areas you want to be victorious in. Claim them, and go and possess them without fear.

Joshua 8:1, “And the Lord said unto Joshua (put your name in here) Fear not, neither be thou dismayed....”

Judges 6:23, "Peace be unto thee, fear not...."

Psalms 118:6, "The Lord is on my side and I will not fear...."

Zechariah 8:13, "Fear not, but let your hands be strong."

Matthew 10:30-31, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Luke 12:32, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Matthew 8:26, "And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm."

Isaiah 35:3-4, "Strengthen ye the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not: behold your God will come with a vengeance, even God with a recompense, He will come and save you."

It is surely a time of fear. When I originally wrote this chapter and titled it this way, that was several years ago. I am revising this book. Since that time September 11 and all the crisis

that has happened since then has shook the world with fear. Everywhere we go we hear of Christians who are dependent on nerve pills and medication to get them through the fear of the time. When God first put this chapter in my heart, all this had yet to happen. He led me to write this chapter. He knew what time was coming. He knew that by my next revision there would be a time of great fear. He holds the world in the palm of His hand. He is no less of a God in the times of peace than He is in times of struggle and fear. We serve a God who has redeemed us from fear. His message is the same to His people as it has been all down through time. He has kept His people through a lot worse times than those we are seeing now.

*Fear not, redeemed of the Lord.*

## **Chapter 12.**

### **Redeeming the Time**

Isaiah 44:21-22, “Remember these, O Jacob and Israel, for thou art my servant: I have formed thee, thou art my servant; O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions and, as a cloud, thy sins, return unto me, for I have redeemed thee.”

You are redeemed. You know now what that means and the price that was paid for your redemption. You know what you have been redeemed from. You know how to stand in your redemption and keep satan from stealing it. You are ready to obey God in the fullness of what that means. God created you for a purpose. You can only be fulfilled as a person when you find the purpose that God has for you. He has a purpose for you that only you can fill. Some of the saddest and emptiest people I know are those who have not found their purpose, or who have found it, but turned their back on it to do their own thing. They wander around empty of purpose. Make it a priority every day to obey God.

The other day someone came up to me and gave me \$40.00. This came at a time when my finances had taken a beating and I was in need.

This man has done this for many years, just when I needed it. I never see him unless I am in need. He always obeys God in this way. He explained, "I am retired now. I give my money and my obedience to God." Every day He asks God what it is that He wants Him to do, and at whatever cost He does it. I can hear some of you saying now, that's great, but I have a job and I have to work. I have a family and that takes up my time. I am too tired to do anything for God after all that." If you make it a priority to obey God, God will lead you in a way that you can follow. He knows your schedule. Give it to Him, and He will use you. Make obeying Him a priority and watch to see how He will use you, even where you are. Have you tried going to work with these thoughts on your mind, "How can I serve God today. Who here is in need of someone to talk to? Who needs a shoulder to lean on? Who needs to hear about God's love? Who can I reach for Him? Who needs You, Lord, and how can I get the two of you together? Who needs prayer? How can I give for you today?"

How serious are you really about obeying God and serving Him where you are. The devil may jump in and say, "What's the use. These people don't need or want God." If he says that, you can believe that there are people there who need Him. Don't be the judge to say who wants it

and who doesn't. Just obey God. Put it on their plate. If they don't eat it, it isn't up to you. It is your job to put it there. I can remember a time when God told me to witness to somebody. I didn't think that person wanted to hear, so I made excuses not to. He had a stroke and nearly died. I knew that if that person died, his blood would be on my hands. Believe me, I prayed harder than I had ever prayed. He got better and I was one of the first persons he talked to when he got out of the hospital. He wanted to tell me that while he was there, he had given his heart and life to the Lord. Don't be the judge. Let God do that.

We know that we need to obey God, but we don't have time. When I hear people say that I know that they probably have their priorities out of line. We need to take back our time. We need to let God redeem our time. The devil gets us caught in a rat race life, and we have nothing to show for it. We live this life around our children and wonder why when they grow up they don't serve God and make Him a priority in their lives. We ache as we see them being destroyed by the world they serve and wonder why. Is Jesus Lord in your life?

We all know that the rapture draws closer. The signs more and more are pointing in that direction. Jesus is coming back and those that



are left will face tribulations like this world has never known. Will your neighbor be one of those left behind? Will your Mom or Dad be here to face that hell on earth? Will your children? Will the people you work around? What about the people you pass on the street everyday? If they die today, will they wake up in the flames of hell? Picture the flames of hell around those you love that aren't saved. It's time that we get real about these things. It is time that you give God your time, not your leftovers. (Colossians 3:5, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.") Let God redeem your time.

### Chapter 13. Return Unto Me

Throughout this little book, I've talked about getting back to the basics of God's Word. I've talked about how we need to return to making Him a priority in our lives, getting your mind and heart stayed on Him. If you may have been reading this and you have realized that your life isn't where it should be with God, Jesus is saying to you, "Return unto Me, for *I have redeemed you*". I once asked the Lord why some seemed to receive so much more love and attention from Him than others. I knew that He was not one that unjustly favored some over others. He showed me that those who received more, asked for more, stayed closer to Him, and lived in the shadow of His blessings. He says to come unto Him and He will redeem and He will bless you. Get a good concordance. One of those with every word in the Bible listed. Check out the number of times God or Jesus said the word "Come". Here are only a few:

Genesis 7:1, "And the Lord said unto Noah, come thou and all thy house into the ark...." (He tells you the same, to come into the ark of the safety of His love.)

Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as

scarlet; though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool.”

Isaiah 55:1, “Ho, everyone that thirsteth come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Revelations 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let Him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst say come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.

He says to you. Come and I will redeem you. Come unto me.

## **Closing**

Remember, you are redeemed. You are precious to the Lord, and you have been brought with a price. He has bought you back from sin, the world, your past, your self, the enemy, and more. You are redeemed. It is time to stand up, and go in the victory that the Lord has for you.

## **You Are Redeemed**

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The author, Sandy Haga, is a part of New Life Church and Ministries. For information about New Life, check out website for New Life Church and ministries at [www.nlcm.net](http://www.nlcm.net).

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