

Knowing Who You Are In Christ Using Your Spiritual Authority - Part 2

We saw in Part One that the armor of God is the **KNOWLEDGE of who you are in Christ**, and we looked at the importance of "**taking your THOUGHTS captive**" and filling your mind with God's word, instead of believing the lies of the enemy. Now, let's look at some specific areas where Satan attacks us, and some specific scriptures from the word of God with which to combat him!

"**The ACCUSER of the Brethren**" is another title for Satan ("Brethren" means "brothers and sisters" - Christians). Satan "**ACCUSES** us day and night," and this word, "accuse" means to "charge with some offense." **If you belong to Jesus**, and you feel you are under condemnation, Romans 8:1 says that the **CONDEMNATION is NOT from God**. The Holy Spirit brings **CONVICTION of sin** to the Christian (He gently but firmly **CONVINCES** us of the **WRONG** we are doing), but He does not **CONDEMN** us if we **BELONG** to **JESUS**.

•**Revelation 12:9-10** "So the great dragon was cast (thrown) out, that serpent of old, called the **devil and Satan**, who **deceives** the whole world; he was cast to (thrown down to) the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the ACCUSER of our brethren, who ACCUSED them day and night**, has been cast down.'"

•**Romans 8:33-34** "Who shall **bring a CHARGE (accusation)** against God's elect (chosen ones)? It is God who justifies. Who is he who **CONDEMN**s? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes INTERCESSION for us.**"

•**Romans 8:1** "There is therefore now **NO CONDEMNATION** to those who are **IN CHRIST JESUS**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

To **CONDEMN** means to pronounce **GUILTY**, to pronounce **SENTENCE** and **JUDGE** against, to **DAMN**. God's Law brings **CONDEMNATION**, because we, weak as we are in the flesh, cannot keep it perfectly. The penalty for failure to keep the law is death, and the **ULTIMATE** penalty is **ETERNAL DEATH** in **HELL**. **Jesus PAID the penalty FOR US, so we are NOT CONDEMNED or DAMNED to hell**. Jesus also "**FULFILLED the righteous REQUIREMENT of the law**" **FOR US** (Romans 8:4). The law can't make a person holy, it can only **DEMAND** that he **BE HOLY**. God **IMPUTES to us** (applies to our account) the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Romans 4:5-8) and since Jesus kept the law perfectly, the requirement has been **FULFILLED** through Him. Romans 8:33-34 says "It is God who justifies." **JUSTIFIED** means that God by His **GRACE declares RIGHTEOUS** the sinner who believes on Jesus Christ. **It is NOT a process of becoming righteous, it is a ONE-TIME act of GRACE — we are MADE RIGHTEOUS** the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior! It is **NOT** merely **FORGIVENESS** of sins, although forgiveness is **INCLUDED** — God does indeed **FORGIVE** and **FORGET** our **SINS**. However, **JUSTIFICATION means God even FORGETS that we were ever SINNERS!** There is **NO MORE RECORD** of our sins (Hebrews 10:17).

•**Romans 3:21-25** "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even **the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God which is through FAITH in CHRIST JESUS** to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for **ALL** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (His perfect requirements), being **JUSTIFIED freely by His GRACE** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth to be a propitiation (sacrifice) **by His blood**, through faith..."

•**Isaiah 43:25** "I, even I, am the One who **WIPES OUT** your transgressions for My own sake; and **I WILL NOT REMEMBER your SINS.**"

But what about when we DO sin? Aren't we supposed to "feel bad" when we sin? Yes, there should be that conviction from the Holy Spirit, but only until you get everything cleared up with the Lord. **Repent and confess it to God**, and make a re-commitment to the Lord, if necessary, but then go on with a clean slate, a fresh start - **cleansed from GUILT** by the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7-9).

• **1 John 3:19-21** "And by this we KNOW that we are of the TRUTH, and **shall ASSURE our hearts before Him**. For **if our heart CONDEMNS us**, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God."

This is another word for "condemn" meaning "to find fault with", to blame. This is NOT talking about eternal condemnation, but about examining ourselves and CONFESSING our SINS to God. **See 1 John 1:9**. When we have confessed all of our sins to God, **we have CONFIDENCE** when we come before Him with our prayers. If you have examined your own HEART, to see if there is any SIN you need to CONFESS to the Lord, and you still feel condemnation even after confessing to God and repenting (turning away from that sin), then **Satan, not God, is the source of that condemnation or accusation**. Rev. 12:9 says that "Satan DECEIVES the whole world" - he will try to DECEIVE YOU, to make you think the condemnation is coming from God, when it is not! Some of you have been taught, quite wrongly, that God is just WAITING to catch you in some sin so He can smack you! No way! God loves you so much, that He (1) sent Jesus to pay for your sins, (2) He imputes Christ's righteousness to you, and (3) He has placed Jesus as your "advocate" or defense attorney against Satan (1 John 2:1). If Satan accuses you before God, **Jesus INTERCEDES** and steps forward and says, "**That's already PAID for - it's covered by My BLOOD!**" (Romans 8:33-34). If Satan makes the accusations to you, **in your own thoughts**, that's where "taking your thoughts captive" comes into operation. You must recognize those thoughts as being AGAINST God's truth, and counteract with the word of God. James 4:7 says "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee (run away) from you." **RESIST Satan by quoting scripture** (God's word) OUT LOUD to him, and then BELIEVE GOD'S WORD, instead of Satan's accusations. Two things happen when you speak God's word out loud: first, it is a weapon against the enemy, and second, it allows YOU to HEAR the word as well, and gets that word down into your spirit. What are some of the most common areas in which we are attacked or accused?

1. **FEELINGS of UNWORTHINESS** - "I'm not good enough to be a Christian" "I'm too great a sinner for God to save me." "God loves others, but He doesn't love me as much"

2. **FEAR & WORRY** - "I'm afraid! I don't trust God to take care of me and supply my needs!"

3. **DOUBTING YOUR SALVATION** - "I've committed the unforgiveable sin"

4. **DEPRESSION & DESPAIR** - "What's the use of trying, I've failed so many times" "I'll never conquer this addiction, habit or whatever in my life - I'm a failure!"

Women especially, have trouble in the area of making decisions based on how we "feel" - our emotions. It's not just women, though - men also say "I don't FEEL saved" or they are attacked in the same areas and react with their emotions. Can you imagine Jesus in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11), and instead of answering back with "**It is written!**" He said something like this, "Gee, Satan, maybe you're right - **I FEEL so abandoned by God** here in this wilderness. Maybe the Father doesn't really love Me. I know I was with Him from all eternity, but now I've been born into this crummy old world, and He's given Me a pretty rough time of it. I mean, people have taunted and teased Me, saying I was illegitimate (I mean, who could really swallow that virgin birth story anyway?).....and now, just when I'm supposed to be starting My ministry on earth, the Holy Spirit has let Me down, too - He brings Me out here in the desert, and dumps Me off with no food or nothing! I mean, what is all that business about being Jehovah Jireh, the God Who Provides? He sure isn't providing for Me!" That may seem ridiculous, but it is no different from what we do many times. We allow outward circumstances and our emotions to **rule and guide us** instead of God's word. "So what can I do?" you say, "I've been letting my emotions, feelings, NEGATIVE THINKING and circumstances rule my life for so long, it's become a stronghold. Well, God's word has the answer for "pulling down the strongholds" in our lives, and we do it ONE THOUGHT at a time!

•**II Corinthians 10:3-5** ".....the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (merely human), but mighty through God to the **pulling down of strongholds**; casting down imaginations, and every high thing (thoughts, lies from Satan) that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT** to the OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST."

"Okay, I've heard that before, but HOW do I cast out wrong thoughts and take them captive to the obedience of Christ?" I believe Jesus Himself gives us an example in Matthew 16:21-23. Peter had tried to tell Jesus that He wouldn't have to go to the cross and die (same temptation as Satan gave in the wilderness, Matt. 4:8-10). Jesus immediately RECOGNIZED that suggestion was AGAINST the will of God for Him, and He said, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for **you are not mindful of the THINGS of GOD**, but the things of men." You could say something like this, "I command these thoughts to get out of my mind, in the name of Jesus! These thoughts (suggestions, temptations, negative thoughts) are AGAINST God's will, and I WILL NOT entertain these thoughts." Then immediately, replace those thoughts with the TRUTH from God's word regarding that particular temptation or doubt, by saying those scriptures out loud! With your FREE WILL, **make a DECISION** and **CHOOSE to believe God's word ahead of time**, BEFORE you get in the middle of some crisis, or you will end up **believing your emotions** and going with your feelings. Choose to believe and quote OUT LOUD the following scriptures when doubts, accusations, fears and evil thoughts of any kind come to you.

How to combat #1 - FEELINGS of UNWORTHINESS - You are NOT unworthy! God loves YOU as much as He loves Jesus! God in His great mercy and kindness CHOSE YOU to be His son or daughter before you ever did anything either good or bad. **He MADE you acceptable** (Col. 1:12) and WORTHY, **He MAKES you pure and holy**, and He is able to keep you from falling, and keep you blameless in His sight (Jude 24-25).

•**Psalm 86:5 & 15** "For **You, Lord, are GOOD**, and **READY TO FORGIVE**; and plenteous in MERCY unto all them that call upon You." "You, O Lord, are **a God FULL of COMPASSION**, and GRACIOUS, long-suffering (patient), and PLENTEOUS in MERCY and TRUTH."

•**Joel 2:13** "...and TURN unto the Lord your God, for **He is GRACIOUS and MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER**, and of **GREAT KINDNESS.....**"

•**Ephesians 1:4-6** "Just as He **CHOSE US** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **HOLY and without blame** before Him in love; having predestined us to adoption as sons (children) by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He has MADE us ACCEPTED in the Beloved** (in Jesus)."

•**Galatians 3:26 & 4:6-7** "For **YOU are all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus." "And because you are sons (children), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father! Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

•**II Cor. 6:18** "**I will be a Father to YOU**, and **YOU shall be My sons and daughters'**, says the Lord Almighty."

•**John 1:12** "But as many as received Him, to them **He gave the right to become CHILDREN of God**, even to those who believe in His name."

•**John 17:20-23** "I do not pray for these alone, but also **for THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE (that's you and me)** in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me **I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one; I in them, and You in Me; that **they may be MADE perfect** in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have **LOVED THEM as You have LOVED ME.**"

How to combat #2 - FEAR & WORRY - God is your loving heavenly Father, and **He REALLY DOES** want to supply your needs, and He DOES have your best interests in mind. Even when He allows trials and tests to come into your life, it is always for your good.

•**Philippians 4:19** "But my God shall SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

•**Jeremiah 29:11** "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare (your good) and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.'"

•**Romans 8:28** "And we know that **ALL things WORK together for GOOD** to those who **LOVE GOD**, to those who are the CALLED according to His purpose."

•**Proverbs 1:33** "But whoever listens to Me will dwell SAFELY, and will be SECURE, WITHOUT FEAR of EVIL."

•**I Timothy 1:7** "For God has **NOT given us a spirit of FEAR**, but of POWER and of LOVE and of a sound MIND."

•**Hebrews 2:14-15** ".....that through [*Christ's*] death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, **the DEVIL**, and RELEASE those who **through FEAR of death** were all their lifetime subject to BONDAGE."

•**Psalms 91:2-7, 9-12** "I will say of the Lord, He is my REFUGE and my FORTRESS: my God, in Him will I trust. Surely He shall DELIVER you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence." "**You shall NOT be AFRAID** of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall NOT COME NEAR YOU." "Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, NO EVIL shall befall you, neither shall any plague (calamity) come near your dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over you, to KEEP you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

•**Matthew 7:11 & 6:33** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much MORE will **your Father who is in heaven give GOOD things** to those who ask Him!" "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to (provided for) you."

How to combat #3 - DOUBTING YOUR SALVATION - You do NOT lose

your salvation once you are born again into God's family. Since you were NOT saved by your GOOD behavior, you do not LOSE your salvation by your BAD behavior. You didn't EARN it, you only had to RECEIVE it - it is a total free gift! **GRACE** means unmerited or UNEARNED favor - **being accepted and loved by God** when we have done NOTHING and CAN DO NOTHING to EARN or DESERVE it. Because **it is ALL God's work**, and not our own, NO ONE can "boast" of how their good behavior got them saved in the first place. The only "unforgiveable sin" is to NOT believe in Jesus and accept Him as your Savior - **every other sin** you could possibly think of was PAID for on the cross!

•**Titus 3:4-6** "But when the KINDNESS and the LOVE of GOD our Savior toward man appeared, **NOT by works** of righteousness which we have done, but **according to His MERCY He SAVED us**, by the washing of regeneration (being born again) and renewing of the Holy Spirit; which He shed on us ABUNDANTLY **through Jesus Christ our Savior.**"

•**Ephesians 2:8-9** "For **by GRACE** you have been saved **through FAITH**, and that not of yourselves, it is **the GIFT of God; NOT of WORKS**, lest anyone should boast."

•**John 10:28-29** "My Sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them **ETERNAL life**, and **they shall never perish**; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **NO ONE** is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."

•**I John 5:13** "These things have I written unto **YOU that believe** on the name of the Son of God; **that YOU may KNOW that YOU have eternal life**, and that YOU may *continue* to believe on the name of the Son of God."

How to combat #4 - DEPRESSION & DESPAIR - Depression and despair are the results of DESTRUCTIVE thinking - the result of ALLOWING wrong, negative thoughts to take control of your mind. **Proverbs 25:28** says "Whoever has **no RULE over** his own spirit (thoughts and emotions) is like a city broken down, without walls." If you have been MENTALLY PASSIVE and LAZY, and especially if you have practiced any kind of meditation where **you "blank out"**

your mind, you have left yourself WIDE open to thoughts of depression and despair from the enemy. You **MUST** take up the authority God has given you and **TAKE BACK control of your mind**. Does this mean I don't believe there is ever depression that is related to physical causes or chemical imbalance? I'm sure there is some, but we won't go into that here. **EVERYONE can benefit** by RENEWING their minds with God's word and taking their thoughts captive, and it just may be that you've been given a wrong diagnosis by a fallible human doctor, and your real problem is spiritual!

•**Isaiah 41:10** "Fear not, for I am with you; **be not dismayed (depressed)**, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, yes, I will UPHOLD you** with My righteous right hand."

•**Psalms 107:19-20** "Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saves them out of their distresses. He sent **His WORD, and HEALED them, and DELIVERED them from their DESTRUCTIONS.**"

•**Philippians 1:6** "Being **CONFIDENT** of this very thing, that **He who has BEGUN a good work in YOU will COMPLETE it** until the day of Jesus Christ."

•**Romans 8:38-39** ".....neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate **US from the LOVE of GOD which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

•**John 14:27** "PEACE I leave with you, My PEACE I give unto you; not as the world gives, do I give unto you. **LET not** your heart be TROUBLED, neither **let it be AFRAID.**"

In your depression you may say, "The promises in the word of God **don't SEEM REAL** to me" or "There seems to be **a barrier or blockage** when I try to read the word." This blockage may be demonic, and if you are very weak, you may need help in deliverance from the demons initially, but **afterwards you MUST learn to take your thoughts captive** to keep the demons from coming back (Matt. 12:43-45). If you or your ancestors have been involved in any of the following activities, it may have opened up your life to demonic oppression or attack: Psychics, fortune tellers, Tarot cards, horoscope/astrology readings, Ouija Board, readings from a "spiritual advisor" or one who uses "channeling", spirit guides, psychic healing, palm reading, hearing voices or talking to "spirits" or "angels", seances, adoration of saints and Mary in Roman Catholicism, voodoo or Santaria, Wicca or witchcraft, *feng shui* and other eastern practices using "forces of energy" ("qi" or "chi"), martial arts (especially the higher levels), Satanism, heavy metal rock music, rap, and other ungodly forms of music, heavy drug or alcohol use, sexual promiscuity or perversion (including homosexuality), pornography, abortion, New Age teachings of any kind, idolatry or false religion of any kind, yoga, TM and all forms of meditation using a "mantra" or chanting, hypnotism, Scientology and mind science religions, Masonic Lodge, etc. For more on deliverance, see "Using Your Spiritual Authority - Part 1"