

THE OVERCOMER'S MANUAL



Is once saved always saved a scriptural doctrine?

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Dedication

To the Elders of the Church at Southern Queensland

*Pr 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

Introduction

The premise for the translation, from the Textus Receptus to the Authorised Version, the King James Bible¹ came about when King James I of England was moved by God to call together 54 of the most prominent scholars of that day to translate the Bible into the English language of the common man. Although it was first printed and distributed to the clergy as a huge pulpit volume, it was undoubtedly, as it transpired, God's purpose to get it into the hands of the common man.

This had been blocked by the Churches prior to this as it decentralized power and gave the ordinary believer the ability to question the morality and dictatorial sway of priest and Pope alike. The final authority would henceforth reside in the Word of God and not that of man.

Phil Stringer writes:

Even though the official name for this translation would be the Authorized Version, it was soon known as the King James Bible. It was uniquely made possible and promoted by the King of England - King James. Laymen now had no fear of owning their own Bible - it was sponsored by the King for them.

http://www.psalms118.org/story_of_king_james.htm

Holybible.com website quotes from *the instructions King James gave to his advisors*:

"Every particular man of each company is to take the same chapter or chapters: and having translated or amended them severally by himself, where he thinketh good, all to meet together, confer what they have done, and agree for their parts what shall stand.

As any one company, shall have dispatched any one book, in this manner, they shall send it to the rest to be considered seriously and judiciously, for His Majesty is very careful in this point.

If any company, upon the review of these books so sent, doubt or differ upon any place, to send them word thereof, note the place and withal send the reasons: which, if they consent not, the difference to be compounded at a general meeting, which is to be the chief persons of each company at the end of the work.

When any place of special obscurity is doubted of, letters to be directed by authority to be sent to any learned man in the land for

¹ <http://www.baptisttranslators.com/content/view/51/50/>

his judgment.

Letters to be sent from every Bishop to the rest of his clergy, admonishing them of this translation in hand, and to move and charge as many as being skillful in the tongues, and having taken pains in the kind to send these particular observations to either the company at Westminster, Cambridge, or Oxford.

These translations to be used when they agree better with the text than the Bishop's Bible, Tyndale's, Matthew's, Coverdale's, Wycliffe's, Geneva's."

excerpted from http://www.holybible.com/resources/about_kjv.htm

Because it is obvious to me, that our most Holy Lord and Saviour wants the common man, you and me, to understand and apply His word in our lives I have written this and my previous volumes.

It is my solemn conviction that the ordinary born-again believer should become a student of God's word. First by reading it continuously and then by comparing the readings of others whose primary object is the discovery of truth for the love of it.

I have set out rules of sound interpretation in my book That's your Interpretation available for free download at ...<http://www.waypoint.org.au/Articles.html> However a short rule of thumb every Bible reader must follow is this:-

Heresy comes from taking a word or phrase/paragraph of scripture and making it, a stand alone bogus "truth."

All the major heresies employ this tactic. Example.

God is love so he will not punish us (false)

God is love and he loved us so much that He punished is only begotten Son in our place. (True)

God is love so He plans a Judgment day when He will separate all those who are His children from the evil haters of his children who seek to destroy us . (True)

Sometimes the "context" is the whole of Scripture.

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Chapter 1 Premise For This Writing

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED NO MATTER WHAT WE DO?

Some teach that once a believer commits to following Christ, receives salvation by the baptism of the Holy Spirit into Christ's body and receives in prospect the resurrection life of Jesus that they can never lose that salvation come what may. It is certain that the Bible gives the believer *assurance* that his/her salvation is permanent and secure *on the condition* of their abiding in Christ:

Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (never, certainly not, not at all, by no means [Strongs])

Joh 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

However to the contrary continuing in the same paragraph in John 15:6

Joh 15:6 ***If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.***

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

On the one hand (verse 6) **disaster and destruction – Hell:** on the other, (v7) blessing and power for a Christian life of service, Then an eternal life secure in the new Heaven and earth wherein dwelleth righteousness (2Pe 3:13 and Re 21:1).

The question is "Can a born again believer, once they are saved, opt out of his or her salvation by choice or by negligence?"

There is no doubt whatsoever that in this life we have tribulation (trouble) Jesus Himself tells us that (Joh 16:33) and adds: *but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* I can hear the timid saying, "That's all right for Him to say, but I am not the *Son of God* as He is! --- *I'm FEARFUL!*" Jump ahead and see what the Bible says about the fearful, i.e. those who give up in Re 21:8. It is not a pretty picture check it out here!

Re 21:8 But the ***fearful***, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

We don't have to fear if we abide in Him, so change your 'T' shirt slogan to "No fear! ***I'm abiding in Jesus!***"

But the question still persists:

CAN A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER EVER LOSE THEIR SALVATION?

If the believer can never lose that assured salvation what ever he/she does, then there is no point in the “if/but” passages of scripture both in the Old and the New Testament Scriptures.

De 11:27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse[accursed Strongs], if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Mal 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Mt 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Heb 4:11 ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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.

If whatever the believer chooses after committing to faith in Jesus Christ cannot ever lose their salvation, not murder, fornication, adultery, blasphemy, disobedience to God's will. You my reader can imagine the foulest sins of the flesh and the spirit.

This sounds incredible when we recite this list. ***It rings false, because it is false***, because it is contrary to what the Bible teaches. But this is the false doctrine of the: "Once save always saved" teachers. For which I have coined the phrase: ***"The eternal security of the ever lost."***

Biblically there is no such option as "carnal Christianity" for the true believer!

Paul teaches against it:

Ro 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: **but I am carnal, sold under sin.**

Ro 8:7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God:** for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Ro 5:10 For if, **when we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

We were enemies but if we are committed, born-again believers, we are enemies no longer.

The burning question is:

"CAN A GENUINE BELIEVER FALL FROM *THAT* POSITION OF GRACE?"

The word of God has the answer to that question.

2Ti 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

I have no doubt that die-hards of the OSAS (Once Saved Always Saved) school will try to minimise Demas' retraction to one of a change of locality as it was for Titus. However Paul points out that the motivation for Demas' decision to desert him was not based on a dispute in ministry but because of his love of the present world. The world had won him from his commitment to the Way [the way i.e. of salvation Ac 18:25,26; Ac 24:14]

Galatians chapter 5?

Gal 5:1 ¶ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ***ye are fallen from grace.*** [2]

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

9 ***A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.***

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

Gal 5:1-10

2 1601 εκπιπτο ekpipto ek-pip'-to

from 1537 and 4098; TDNT-6:167,846; v [contued.]

AV-fall 7, fall off 2, be cast 1, take none effect 1, fall away 1, fail 1, vr fallen 1; 14

1) to fall out of, to fall down from, to fall off

2) metaph.

2a) to fall from a thing, to lose it

2b) to perish, to fall

2b1) to fall from a place from which one cannot keep

2b2) fall from a position

2b3) to fall powerless, to fall to the ground, be without effect

2b3a) of the divine promise of salvation

Carefully read the history of Simon the sorcerer who was converted and baptised and followed with Philip:

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city [Samaria] used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 **But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.**

13 **Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip,** and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

We can count on it that this was Simon's experience of believers' baptism. This was not the baptism of John as recounted in Acts 19:1-7 if we read on we discover that the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon them.

Acts 8:14 ¶ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

18 **And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,**

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 **But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.**

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Simon was included in this group and received the Holy Spirit too! **But he wanted more**, he saw the power God had given His Apostles and wanted that for himself. His heart was not dedicated to the worship and service of Christ but to mammon.

Only God "looketh on the heart." However in Simon's case God told us in verse 21 (above). What was Simon's motivation for turning away from faith in Jesus, his loss of business income and his fame and

fortune derived from magic caused his bitterness. In as very real sense he, as did Demas, *loved this present world*

A hardened Calvinist would chime in here and try to tell us that Simon was not truly saved, but the word of God states that he *believed* and was *baptised* and *was in the group that received the Holy Spirit* in vs 16,17!

These people in the incident with Simon were predominantly Jewish Christians just as those recipients of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Read Hebrews 6:1-6

1 ¶ Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

3 And this will we do, if God permit.

4 **For it is impossible for those who[1] were once enlightened, [2]and have tasted of the heavenly gift, [3]and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,**

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 [4]**If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance;** seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

I have heard teachers try to wriggle out of this passage in Hebrews by saying that the Hebrews epistle does not apply since it was written to a dispersed Jewish audience and that the recipients were somehow different from the usual New Testament Church.

This of course flies in the face of the teaching of Paul who writes: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.* (Ga 3:28) Hebrews 6:4 destroys the notion that the addressees were anything less than believers who were endowed with the Holy Spirit at their conversion. We should simply read this epistle as it was accepted to be by the KJV translators, a letter to Christians, inspired by the Holy spirit and therefore holy writ.

If this were the only New Testament support for the fact that believers can opt out of their salvation by choice, but it is not.

Speaking to the disobedient Corinthian Church, referring to the disobedience of Israel in the wilderness Paul says

1Cor 1:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

11 Now **all these things happened unto them for ensamples:** and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 **Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will

with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

Escape what? Escape destruction. The destroyer, Satan will destroy Christians who return to idolatry. Don't make an idol of anything, person, object or pursuit. You make the list putting the first thing that comes to mind at the head of the list. The leading of the Holy Spirit has never let me down in this exercise. Your idols will kill. Cause you to fall away. to destruction - spiritual death.

See what Peter says to believers in his second epistle:

2Pet:5 ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful [*of fruits of the Spirit*] in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten *that he was purged from his old sins.*

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for *if* ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The opposite of having an entrance into the *everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* is to be excluded from it or lost! The opposite of assurance (v10) is uncertainty and failure.

Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

WHAT OF WORKS?

We have been given a free gift of salvation *Not of works, lest any man should boast.* (Eph 2:9) This is true But there are works that are subsequent to salvation that are expected of us! [See also: Ro 3:20; Ro 3:27,28; Ro 11:6; Tit 3:3-5]

Salvation is free to all who BELIEVE on the only begotten Son of God. But does it take WORK to keep it! According to God's word it does.

Php 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

14 ¶ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

If we are yoked with Jesus he will take the most of the strain. I am old enough to remember bullock teams pulling heavy logs on carts. there was a trick of the bullock drivers to yoke a stronger animal with a weaker one by moving the pivoting point of the yoke bar or swingletree moving the fulcrum toward he stronger animal increasing the strong animal's load and reducing the load on the weaker one.

It is this idea that applies to the work which the believer is called upon to do in harness with the Lord, which was taught by Jesus in Mt 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* So the song goes:

*His yoke is easy; His burden is light.
I've found it so; I've found it so.
He leadeth me by day and by night
Where living waters flow.*

Ralph E. Hudson (1843-1901)

While we abide in Him we always have work we can handle. If we quit we are only good for stew!

Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

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Chapter 2 Victory First

No football team goes into the game moaning about their defeats. The prime task of the trainer is not getting the team physically fit but shaping their thinking forward to winning.

No I am not advocating a course in positive thinking. Just thinking will not "make it happen." While I don't subscribe to the psychology of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale who teaches that thinking positively will make miracles happen - on the other hand thinking negatively "Oh I can't believe this this will work!" will scuttle most potentially doable projects.

Faith is not the victory as the hymn writer insists, **it is in what or whom our faith is placed!** Peter did not walk on water because had faith to believe he could, but because Jesus called him to do it:

Mt 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, **he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.**

Not because he believed, because He believed Jesus command and all was well until the fear of the raging sea caused him to doubt Jesus' power. Then he went to plan "B" "Don't panic everybody!" Always remember Peter's plan "B," three little words:

Mt 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, **Lord, save me!**

At this point Peter had not been born again and had he been a bit further along faith road he might have thought to pray first before he climbed over the gunnels of the boat and stepped out on the water. Or like another man prayed, *Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.* (Mr 9:24) But I needed the lesson Peter learned that day so the Lord kept the lesson in the Bible for me, and perhaps for you.

Preparation is everything. Prayer and prayerful Bible reading is the fail-safe preparation for soldiers of Christ. There are times when aside from scripture the Lord will say "Come on then!" and we can implicitly trust Him.

I was in a book shop in Esperance and someone said to me, "How do you think you will be able to get a heavily loaded Dyna truck across the Nullarbor in mid summer without blowing the engine?" I answered, "Well we will trust the Lord for that, perhaps He will provide cool weather for us."

Someone (a Mormon I found later) out of sight behind a row of shelves laughed and scoffed, "God will send a miracle just for you?!!" At that point, in my heart I knew the voice of God had said, "Come!" So we went at His command and when we arrived at Kalgoorlie for an overnight stay with a Christian brother, Kevin Ewings a weather front came up, a storm and a weather change that followed us all the way across the Nullarbor. We travelled with an overloaded Dyna truck and trailer and my wife Betty driving a car and caravan behind. Folks in towns we travelled through had drought breaking rains because God answered our prayer and obedience on that trip.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

The Christian life of faith is not a dwelling place because here we have no continuing city, it is a voyage through a turbulent environment much like the event where Jesus called Peter to "Come!"

Jesus fully knew that Peter's first step of faith would begin in failure. But He also knew that Peter would reach out in the crisis and cry for help and that when Jesus helped him they would both walk together, on the water to the boat. I prefer to think of the name that Bible story as "When Peter Walked on Water." Peter definitely set the standard for overcoming that day. *Always* remember to walk with Jesus and He will keep you on course.

As long as we have our hand firmly gripping His we are winners and then *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Php 4:13

[Camel Knees](#)

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Chapter 2 Know Your Enemies

Sure there's more than one, so from here on is a list of the enemies of the baptised Born-again Believer. Get to know and mark them well

KnowThe Old Man, Who is the Old Man?

Ro 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto [or for] sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Paul puts it in polite terms to begin with in Colossians ch.3 by describing the point at which deterioration sets in for the believer who is now saved and cleansed and walking on the upward road.

Even though we are *buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*(Rom 6:4) and my spirit is quickened or brought to life in Christ I am still dragging around a body of flesh.

This fleshly or carnal body has had years of conditioning which has educated it to believe that hedonism, the pursuit of, or devotion to pleasure, especially to the pleasures of the senses is normal and good and that righteousness and that separation to God and His will is abnormal.

Paul encourages us to now look forward and focus on the spiritual values of eternity rather than the crass values of our former carnal lives:

Col 3:1 ¶ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Paul knows and I know, we still don't "get it!" So he proceeds to define the problem in even more graphic detail:

Col 3:5 ¶ Mortify [kill] therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence [lust], and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Worldly people who make no pretense of refinement or religion sugar coat their description of these things by referring to them in excusatory terms fornication becomes an "affair" enticement to lust is described as sex appeal and so on, these all belong to the "old man":

Col 3:8 ¶ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, **seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;**

Paul enlightens us further in Ro 6:11 thus:

Ro 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The "Jail house speak" to describe the transition of a prisoner proceeding to the execution chamber is "dead man walking". The condemned man is on his last walk before judgement.

We on the other hand are not condemned as *there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* (Ro 8:1) We are exonerated through the shed blood of Jesus who paid the penalty for all our sins and we are on our "last walk." The enemy is desperately trying to have us look back to Sodom like Lot's wife. We know what happened to Lot's wife as the rest of her family escaped.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (Jas 4:7)

Don't look back to the old life:

Lu 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

The flesh is a constant enemy especially today in the age of instant entertainments movies, video, TV and iPhones and pads. Men, look at their eyes and when the dialogue gets "seamy" hit the off button without delay.

Strange as it may sound the "**Old Man**" is religious and he/she turns up regularly at church. You see the old man is not an atheist he is the residue of the believers former worldly life and wants to be included in the new environment where Christians live. He loves the fellowship and the singing and

the chance to dress up his appearance, but he is oh so vulnerable to regression. So when the old man hears a talk or a sermon that appeals to him he is into it like a chicken into...

1 Tim 4:1 ¶ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some ***shall depart from the faith***, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

You can read the context of these verses that deal with religious hypocrisy of the kind that that Paul was dealing with in that day, nevertheless today in the 21st century there are many other religious doctrines that appeal to the flesh doctrines of devils that are supported and perpetuated by the religious sugar coating of rock music, dance, euphoric utterances and fortune-telling prophesies that have a wish for godliness but emanate from the pit.

The soul salve applied to this open wound is the mantra: "I was saved back then (!) with the evidence of a transformed life and the preacher told me ***"Once saved always saved!"*** So you see, I can never lose my salvation now Praise the Lord!"

Beware this is what I call "The eternal security of the ever lost."

Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

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Chapter 3 The World

The World 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

THE WORLD AND THE EARTH ARE NOT THE SAME THING!

When Cain's sacrifice was judged by God he, in a fit of pique killed his brother. Cain then turned from the presence of God and went out to the land of Nod and built a city (Ge 4:16). As you follow the subsequent events in Genesis 4 you get the story of a degenerating society this is what God calls "the World" as distinct from the Earth. Society in Genesis 6 was marred by man's self will aided and enticed by fallen angels.

The Bible describes the Devil as an angel that fell, in the same genre as: *the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.* (Jude 6) the word "darkness" in Jude 6 [ζοφος zophos] is similar to but not exactly the same as *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!* (Mt 6:23) [σκοτος skotos see Strongs] The difference being that the fallen angels (devils) have no reprieve, men of "darkness" [σκοτος skotos] on the other hand have the possibility of restoration when they believe on the Name of Jesus for salvation.

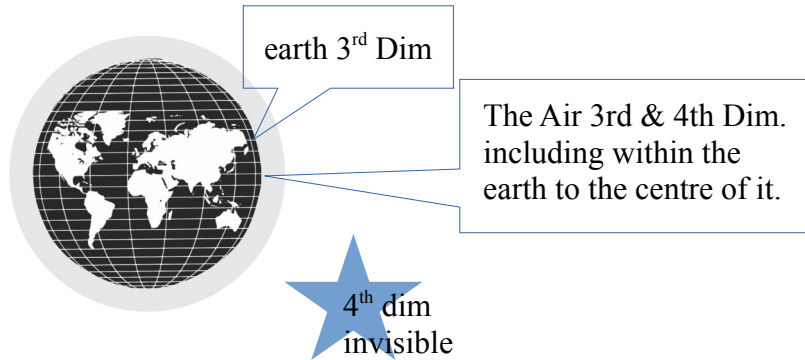
Notice also that the chains or bands binding the fallen ones is not Hell. The demons near Galilee *cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?* (Mt 8:29) the Devil and his fallen host know prophesy. However they just can't opt out of the inevitable.

Think about this for a minute or two. This is telling us that we are battling on every side with demons, fallen angels, who want to force their way into the believer and take God's territory in any way they can.

After studying the Scriptures and comparing outside sources, the life experiences of believers including mine, I conclude that these angels after they fell, *kept not their first estate* (Jude 6), dwell in the heavenly places of the Earth (Eph 1:3; Eph 1:20; Eph 2:6; Eph 3:10; Eph 6:12 (high places) [και kai kahee].

They are bound to it now where once, once long ago, they dwelt in or at least had access to the heaven of heavens, the throne room of Almighty God (see Job 1:6 and Job 2:1 and compare Job 38:4-) they now are confined to coming and going between the "heavenly places" or forth dimension, and the "third *dimension*," earth. This includes the heart of the earth

See the graphic illustration on the next page...



For a simplified scientists explanation of the String Theory check out the video at this site [String Theory Video](#) "How you describe something depends on what your measurement tools are." quoted from the video.

The measurement tools of dimensions beyond the third dimension are not scientific in the worldly sense, they are spiritual. At the point when an individual understands this there is a "water shed" experience in understanding, a quantum leap if you will:

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. [or measured]

If as the scientists' guess that dimensions are in some way curled up in the molecular structure of the universe like a builders measuring tape the possibilities of extra dimensions is endless. The Bible says of Jesus Christ our Creator God: *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.* (Col 1:17)

It seems to me then that, while I cannot understand all of it, the idea is explained in:

Isa 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

For those who abide in Him the future is indescribably wonderful:

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

The world is not our friend but our enemy and the battle goes to him who overcomes.

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Chapter 4 The Flesh

We desperately need to understand that the body of flesh we live in is our enemy. I say desperately because the thing everybody loves most in the whole world is his or her flesh. We admire it in mirrors, in pools, in shop windows. We rub potions on it to keep it smooth and blemish free. Those who are disfigured deeply or superficially, hate their disfigurement. We feed it and bathe it and get it medical attention in order to protect and preserve it as long as possible in a youthful form while we preen it, looking for the approval of our peers. I lie not! This is what we do!

While our flesh may not be our worst enemy it is up there vying for the top spot. Its comfort zone is the world. The world of the senses. Music, society, food, wine, entertainments and diversions of all kinds thrilling, dangerous and living “on the edge” or conversely living for comfort. We love ourselves it is inherently born in us. That is why Jesus uses our self-love as an example when he says:

Lu 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

To bring some perspective we must add the distinction the “flesh” is not the “body.” in the same way as we distinguish the “world” from the “Earth” The flesh identifies that part of us that is looking for gratification the body is where we live temporarily and is also the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Co 6:19) so give it respect and don't write on the walls especially with un-removable graffiti.

What we do with our body is a conscious act of will on our part. We can make it a vehicle that will carry us into realms of light or choose to make it a facility for lust. The choice is ours. A downward path to destruction or the will of God and an eternal home with the just.

IJohn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Solomon who started so well was a “loser” in the end:

Ec 2:17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Like Lot... 2Pe 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

We on the other hand are able to live according to the Spirit who accompanies us and dwells within us in power for the battle:

- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
- 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
- 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The choice is ours, temporal gratification or eternal satisfaction the fight is on and the crown goes to the overcomer!

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Chapter 5 The Devil

The Devil the adversary fallen angels and demons

As we discussed in Chapter 4 The fallen angel the Devil and his fallen angel followers are the enemy(s) of our souls

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Col 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The enemies are already defeated by the cross and the blood of Jesus' sacrifice there. So every person who who names the Name of Jesus as their Lord and Saviour can resist these in the name of Jesus.

This knowledge is a key to understanding our invincible weapons:

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [of the flesh], but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

The word power here is [δυνατός dunatos doo-nat-os' akin to Ro 1:16... *the power of God unto salvation* δύναμις dunamis doo'-nam-is Strongs] God's power not ours except by proxy. ***But it is ours by proxy!*** We have a spiritual gun (sword) the problem in many cases is that we just never get it unsheathed. The Bible teaches differently:

Eph 6:12 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.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

When Jesus in his fleshly body wrestled with and resisted Satan Matt 4 and Luke 4 He overcame him

with the unanswerable Word of God, *it is written!* We must do no less! *Taking the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God* (Eph 4:17). It takes skill to wield a sword in combat and it takes just as much skill and practise to use the Word of God against the enemy. Memorise and quote, memorise and quote, the more you use it in friendly interactions and in combat the more you will turn back the enemy and retrieve his hostages

Invincible weapons and defences and a direct prayer pipeline to the General for directions in every battle. Victory is guaranteed while we remain connected to Headquarters. *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.* (1Th 5:24).

DEMONS ARE NOT MAKE BELIEVE BUT REAL

In our western culture we do not have a heightened sense of the presence of demons as do some third world cultures. Many other cultures place and emphasis on the presence of spirits in inanimate objects. I have already recounted in a previous volume the report of a Bible college student who was involved in protracted prayer for deliverance for a fellow student who, in her childhood, had multiple demons "prayed into her" by her witch doctor father. He recounts that during those sessions the missionary artefacts in the meeting hall jumped and rattled on the walls.

There is a danger that believers with over active imaginations can get carried away with this kind of information to the extent that they will see demons in everything and every little mishap. Personally I am prepared to pray against anything that is suspect - in the name of Jesus. But not everything that bumps or rattles is demonic. When I first started living in my flat I heard a mysterious faint rattle somewhere in the walls. It sounded like the rattle of a loose sliding door (I have two) disturbed by the wind, but there was no wind. After days and weeks of hearing this, mostly at night I finally located the source. The water pipe plumbing is connected to the main house and when taps were turned on there at night - shower times - this caused a faint hammering in the water pipes of the flat.

I PRAY FOR PROTECTION IN THE NIGHT HOURS

On the other hand when I was having sleep disturbed by nightmares and dreams of a sinful or sexual nature it finally it dawned on me that these occurred when I forgot to pray for protection from demonic attack while sleeping. The most vulnerable times are when a believer is dropping off to sleep or waking up. These are the times when we are not fully aware of spiritual activity and conflict. When I pray for protection in these three areas of time, I had total deliverance! The angels are our ministers:

Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth *to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

2:1 ¶ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

PRAY FOR A DISCERNING SPIRIT

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? 1Co 6:3 be careful to look up and read the context of this statement. We need to pray daily for a discerning spirit so that we can see the enemy as the Holy Spirit gives us discernment. Damage can be done if we confront innocent folks where there is no demonic activity. Watch and pray always and keep your confession and repentance up to date.

Yes "repentance" is not a dirty word as some bogus teaching would have it. It applies to all who have sinned. Unregenerate sinners, Religious sinners like the Scribes and Pharisees (Mt 3:8) and born-again sinners, to Christians John writes:

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Chapter 6 A Falling Away First

2Thess. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

There is no doubt in the mind of the truly born-again believer today that there is something seriously wrong in most Christian churches today. There have always been deviants in the body of Christ, Jesus warned of this during his teaching ministry, false teachers disguised as believers:

Mt 7:15 ¶ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

We have read the words so often that they have become passé. We believe it but we have passed by so often that we are loth to apply it to the popular "Christian" teachers we hear, especially those on the current digital media. If their teaching occurs on T.V., Radio or the awesome authority of the Internet. These teachers quote Scriptures verbatim. So do Mormons and Jehovah's Witness teachers. Most of us quickly turn away in a blink from them. Even the wolves vehemently denounce them.

"HANDSOM IS AS HANDSOME DOES"

This is an adage that pre dates me but it is a truism.

Because something looks good does not make it good. Just because a false teacher denounces another false doctrine doesn't guarantee that his doctrine is all true! If you search and listen to preachers on the Internet you will find teachers of all church traditions slating other preachers for their false doctrines. Some of their accusations are justified in the Word of God and some are not.

Miracles to not authenticate doctrine as Satan is in the business of backing liars with false signs and wonders. He can produce healing of a sort and the fulfillment of prophecies on a hit and miss basis. Various supernatural phenomena, tingling and other sensations, euphoria and ecstatic utterances, visions and visitations etc. For example the Mayrian cult purports to bring messages from the dead Virgin Mary [messages from beyond](#).

The current move among the word of faith movement, i.e. Pentecostal cult followers of all denominations is toward reuniting with Roman Catholicism. Recently Pope Francis broadcast a message to the Pentecostal branch of the "evangelical" church calling for a reuniting in the name of "brotherhood."

Here is a transcript of that speech:

"Two rules: Love God above all, and love the other (neighbor), because he is

your brother and sister. With these two rules we can go ahead. I am here with my brother, my bishop brother, Tony Palmer. We've been friends for years.

He told me about your conference, about your meeting. And it's my pleasure to greet you. A greeting both joyful and nostalgic (yearning). Joyful because it gives me joy that you have come together to worship Jesus Christ the only Lord. And to pray to the Father and to receive the Holy Spirit. This brings me joy because we can see that God is working all over the world. Nostalgic (yearning) because but...it happens, as within our suburbs. In the suburbs there are families that love each other and families that don't love each other. Families that come together and families who separate themselves. We are kind of...permit me to say, separated.

Separated because, it's sin that has separated us, all our sins. The misunderstandings throughout history. It has been a long road of sins that we all shared in. Who is to blame? We all share the blame. We have all sinned. There is only one blameless, the Lord. I am nostalgic (yearning), that this separation comes to an end and gives us communion. I am nostalgic (yearning), of that embrace that the Holy Scripture speaks of when Joseph's brothers began to starve from hunger; they went to Egypt, to buy, so that they could eat.

They went to buy. They had money. But they couldn't eat the money. But there they found something more than food, they found their brother. All of us have currency. The currency of our culture. The currency of our history. We have lot of cultural riches, and religious riches. And we have diverse traditions. But we have to encounter one another as brothers. We must cry together like Joseph did. These tears will unite us. The tears of love.

I am speaking to you as a brother. I speak to you in a simple way. With joy and nostalgia (yearning). Let us allow our nostalgia (yearning) to grow, because this will propel us to find each other, to embrace one another. And together to worship Jesus Christ as the only Lord of History.

I thank you profoundly for listening to me. I thank you profoundly for allowing me to speak the language of the heart. And I also ask you a favor. Please pray for me, because I need your prayers. And I will pray for you, I will do it, but I need your prayers. And let us pray to the Lord that He unites us all. Come on, we are brothers. Let's give each other a spiritual hug and let God complete the work that he has begun. And this is a miracle; the miracle of unity has begun.

A famous Italian author named Manzoni, once wrote in his novel, of a simple man amongst the people, who once said this, "I've never seen God begin a miracle without Him finishing it well." He will complete this miracle of unity. I ask you to bless me, and I bless you. From brother to brother, I embrace you. Thank you."



Pope and Cope exchange hope for Catholic/Charismatic union

Listen for yourself if you're reading this online click the link... [The Pope's Speech on Youtube](#)

These events were incredible in my father's day, just a shadowy outline of them was seen then. This can only be interpreted as, at least in part, of that falling away of believers spoken about in 2Thessalonians 2:

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

I am not nominating the Pope as the "Man of Sin" however there is much to commend those prophesy interpreters who see him as the false prophet. The aim of the New World Order is to have a unification of all churches and religions under one canopy, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Bhuddist, Hindu, etcetra.

Unity at any cost is one of those "wooden nickles" that are fancy looking but worthless as currency in the Kingdom of God. Don't believe the lie that because God *IS* love that He will not punish sin and disobedience. Check the God is Love passages in context:

- 1 John 5:1 ¶ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
- 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
- 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.
- 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
- 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son

of God?

6 ¶ This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 ***And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.***³

God's judgment passed on His only begotten son and thus paid the penalty for all our sins.

Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

God loved us so much that He punished His only begotten Son in our place to cleanse us and sanctify us (set us aside for Himself) - if we turn back again to idolatry or union with an idol worshipping church there is no more sacrifice for us:

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 **If they shall fall away**, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

This does **not** say those who sin, miss the mark, ἁμαρτία hamartia ham-ar-tee'-ah, but those who fall away or παραπίπτω parapipto par-ap-ip'-to or take another path (strongs)

1John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The remedy for sin is ever present with the believer but there is no remedy for "deserting the ship."

Because we are given the Holy Spirit to reside within, our Companion and Guide, our live-in power for guidance and overcoming, *there is no excuse for failure , or "bailing out."*

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3 Don't like this verse in the KJV go to [1John 5:7](#)

Chapter 7 The Last Enemy

The Last Enemy Is Death

1Co 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

This is, as with all of the previous challenges, an issue of resting by faith in the promises of God's Word.

The first noticeable thing of release for the believer is that the sting of death has become non-existent: 1Co 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The Devil will keep on accusing us of past sin and telling us that we cannot be forgiven trying to shake our faith in the Word of God. Don't let him do it - rebuke him in the name of Jesus and the blood of the cross. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you* (Jas 4:7). Then rest by faith in his promises.

At the end of next year I will be 80 yrs old. I wonder almost daily if I will make it til then. When I lay down to sleep each night, having prayed for my family and outreach contacts I sleep peacefully knowing if I don't wake here I will be in the presence of the Lord as my Friend and my Saviour. The rest is sweet. Believe me! *O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* (Psalm 34:8)

Is it any wonder that when I receive my undeserved crown of righteousness (2Ti 4:8) I will too cast it before the throne: *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* (Rev 4:11)

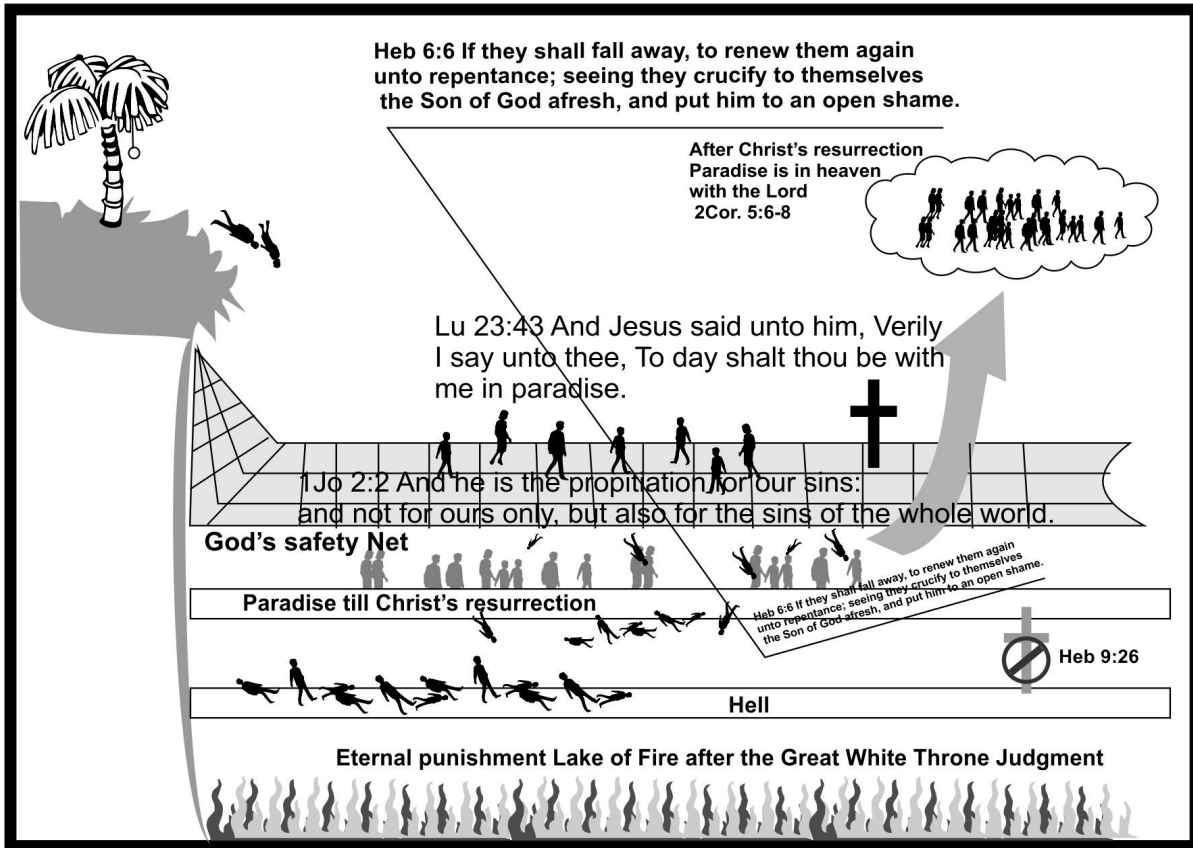
Overcoming, after all, is by resting in obedience to Jesus' commands and abiding in His word.

However having said all of the foregoing in this book, death, and the inevitability of it is always present for us all. I am NOT saying we should live in abject fear an insecurity, but we should have a healthy respect for the enemy within and without our carnal self. Until we die physically we must live by faith.

We who live by faith ***are eternally secure*** no one can snatch us out of the safe and secure arms of the Lord Jesus.

However until we physically die we retain our free will. We choose, when we are faced with the challenges of each day whether we will obey the leading of the Holy spirit within each one of us, or whether we will let it slip. If we slip (call it what it is ***sin***) we have an Advocate with our Father and so *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1Jo 1:9) *So Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* (Heb 10:23)

In an earlier book I represented this principle graphically thus:- see next page



Joh 15:7 If ye abide [continue] in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Amen

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Chapter 8 The Judgement Seat Of Christ

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

We rarely hear sermons on this subject. It goes against the grain with the OSAS crowd because they teach that once the believer is saved there is no pressure to perform works of righteousness, obedience to God's commandments. While it is true that salvation is not of works and cannot be earned or deserved, there is nevertheless a compulsory requirement for performance by our King to be productive as his servants.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Mt 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

There are those who would use these scriptures as a whip to drive the believer to *work harder for the night cometh when no man can work*. But it is Jesus who said those words they are not really an incitement to the believer to work harder, though work we must. If Jesus said His yoke is easy as we have already mentioned the exhortation should be to work smarter.

Ps 121: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Paul goes to great pains in 1Co 12:8-31 to explain, using the analogy of the "body" that our spiritual work is a team effort, that we are required to function diligently but in the vocation for which the Holy Spirit has endowed us by His anointing. The foot though uncomely at the end of year celebration is decorated recognising his faithfulness and load bearing abilities. Each part of the body has a distinct and indispensable function without which the body is disabled.

Returning to the parable of the talents in conclusion, the most disturbing element is in the final verse Mt 25:30: *And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*. Try to ameliorate this if you can, but note that this character is not in heaven as there is no weeping there:

Re 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Re 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

So according to Scripture it is possible to fritter away our eternal security by neglecting to be obedient in the yoke that fits. I know that happened to the bullocks who refused to pull at all. Beef burgers any body?

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Chapter 9 The Overcomer's Crown

After we have discovered that our security is in abiding in Christ, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* (Php 4:13) Now hanging on to Him who will never, never, never, let me go is paramount in my thinking. This is especially important when I witness for Him in times of persecution!

Ro 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Ro 8:39 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.

Much of my life was spent in working in the hot Australian sun, painting advertising signs with small sign writer's brushes. Although I was absorbed in the colour and design of the job the heat would take its toll on my endurance. Between praying for another cloud to cover the sun as a temporary relief I would think of the eventual trip home in the air conditioned vehicle at knock-off time. As I now dab iodine on my sunburnt skin lesions I have doubts about the actual value of those temporal goals.

Trudging on the upward way now at almost eighty years of age I cling to the promise of cool relief at the end of my journey, soon now, when I will receive my, undeserved, crown of righteousness.

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Is it hard work until then? You bet it is. Am I paying for my salvation? No that was totally free! My entrance fee to the race for glory, not my glory but His who bought me with His blood on Calvary!

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried [*i.e. proved*], he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Trial still abounds, in some ways more so, but enduring for the prize has always been worthwhile in this life and by faith I believe it will be even more so in eternity!

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten

days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Overcoming is simply hanging on and enduring hardness until we see the first light of His appearing either at the river or at the rapture.

Re 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

So get in the race with me, it is for the faithful not the fearful. Know that the Lord went before us and finished the course victorious. So by His strength shall we!

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

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Epilogue: **HOW CAN I BE SURE I AM A SAVED BELIEVER?**

1. Study the graphic on page 31

1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. - propitiation means Jesus paid our debt of condemnation and now we are not any longer under condemnation - we are free

Ro 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.***

2. Every man has some light - its what you do with it!

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth ***every man*** that cometh into the world.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

3. Men are condemned for shunning turning away from the light!

What we CHOOSE is what condemns us not our sinful nature.

It was the same in Old Testament days:

De 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

God has set before us today blessing and cursing too we can take the Name of Jesus as our Saviour and Lord or as a curse word.

But God loves us and does not want any to perish:

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, ***not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

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.***

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

It is your choice think carefully before you consign your soul to hell.

You say "I can't live up to His standards!"

God's promise is that you will not have to do it - He will do it in you, but unlike the Devil who worms his way in where ever he can, God's Holy Spirit, waits for your invitation.

Find a quiet place and read this prayer aloud.

If you really mean it with all your heart He will hear you and you will know it!

Father God I confess that I am a sinner, You know it and I know it!
Please forgive me for my sin and cleans me now by the shed blood of Jesus,
Come into my life now and transform it by renewing my mind to be like His.
I promise to keep on trusting in Jesus alone for eternal Life in Him,
while ever you give me the strength to do it. *Amen*

Prayerfully read your King James Bible every day and ask God for a commandment to obey, a promise to remember or a direction to take.

Thank Him for leading you and ask him to lead you to other believers who believe in God and His word.

Do some serious research at <http://www.waypoint.org.au> and remember:

Re 21:7 **He that overcometh**[i.e. keeps on keeping on] shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

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About the Author



Michael Trinham

Michael has spent over thirty years in church ministries across Australia.

He graduated from the Alliance College of Theology Canberra A.C.T. with a Licentiate of Theology Degree and a Scholar of Theology Degree.

He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia and spent sixteen years as a credentialed Alliance Pastor. After completing post graduate studies with Trinity Theological Seminary (U.S.)

He earned a Master of Divinity Degree in 1988.

In latter years he spent some time in various Pentecostal churches taking several minor teaching positions there without real unanimity with some of their doctrines.

Observing the slide away from truth by most of the Denominational Churches, Fundamental, Charismatic and Pentecostal alike, he believed God was opening the way for him to investigate the causes and characteristics of this phenomenon Resulting in his authorship of the following books:

God's Wake Up Call!

That's Your Interpretation!!

The Battle Between Calvinism And Armenianism.

Pentecostalism Revival or End Time Delusion?

What is Church? From Pentecost To Laodicea

and now his short volume The Overcomer's Manual.

Available to download FREE at <http://www.waypoint.org.au/>

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