

He that **OVERCOMETH**

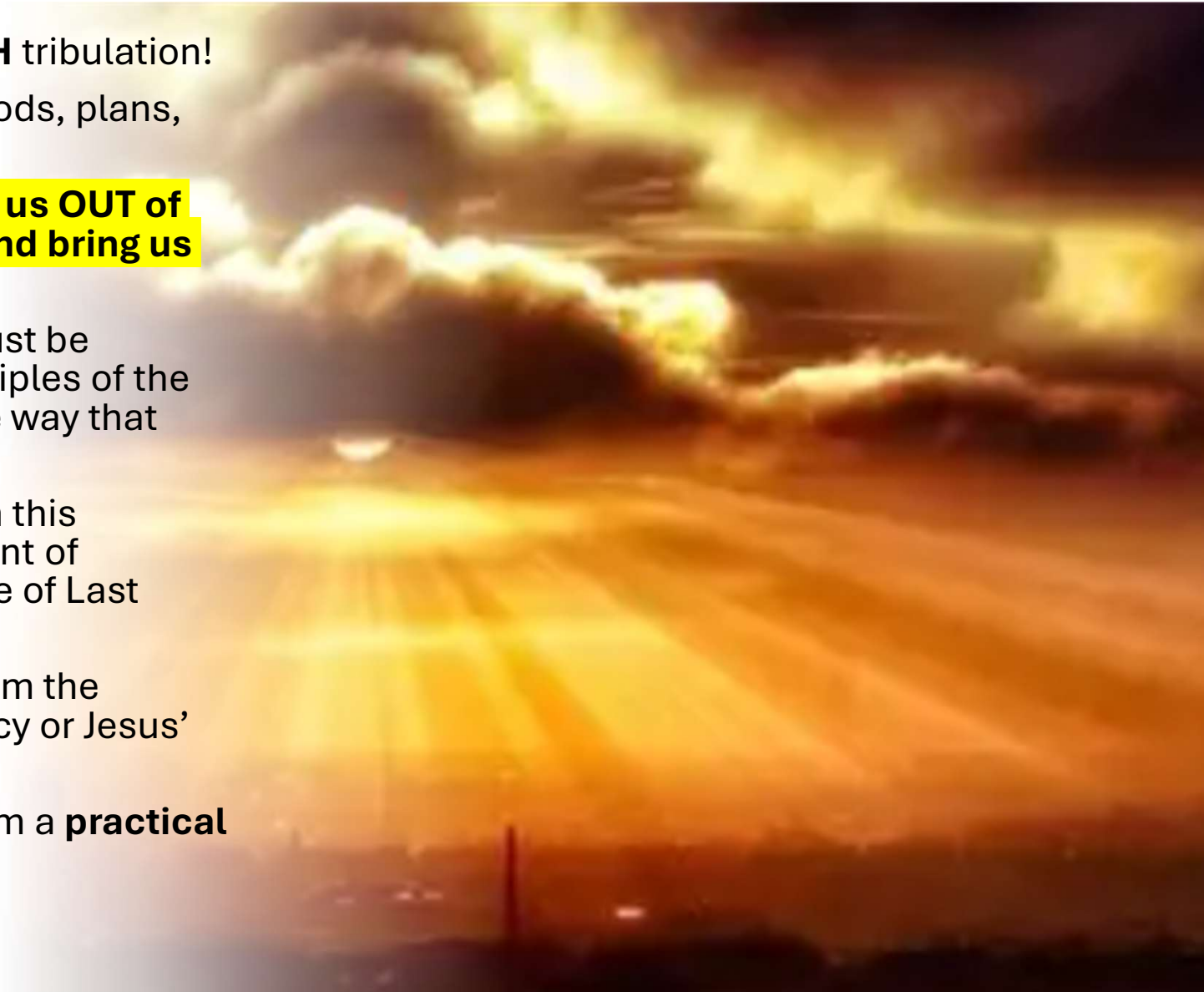
shall inherit all things; and I will be
his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:7

**Recognizing the
Source of Your
Troubles**



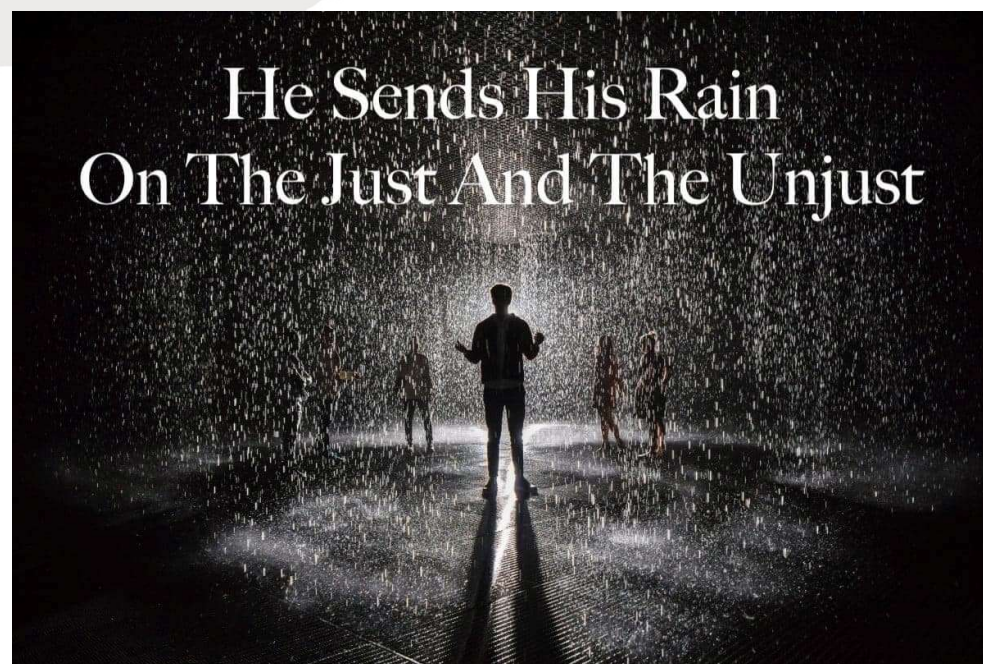
- We must **PRESS THROUGH** tribulation!
- We must learn God's methods, plans, and purposes.
- **God's intent is not to take us OUT of pressure, but to lead us and bring us THROUGH pressure.**
- Our lives and ministries must be governed by the clear principles of the Word of God and not by the way that people think.
- It is most tempting to teach this principle from the standpoint of eschatology, or the doctrine of Last Things.
- I will not cover this truth from the standpoint of Bible prophecy or Jesus' Second Coming.
- But this concept will be from a **practical** point of view.



- Whether or not we know the truth about Bible prophecy, we need to know how to handle and cope with and overcome **the PRESSURE of living in these perilous times!**
- The pressures that we are facing now are greater than anything we have faced before.
 - Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: **for ye have not passed *this* way heretofore.** Joshua 3:4
- **We are living in the birth pangs of a new age.**
- **We are experiencing the beginning of sorrows.**
 - For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
 - And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
 - For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
 - **All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:5-8**



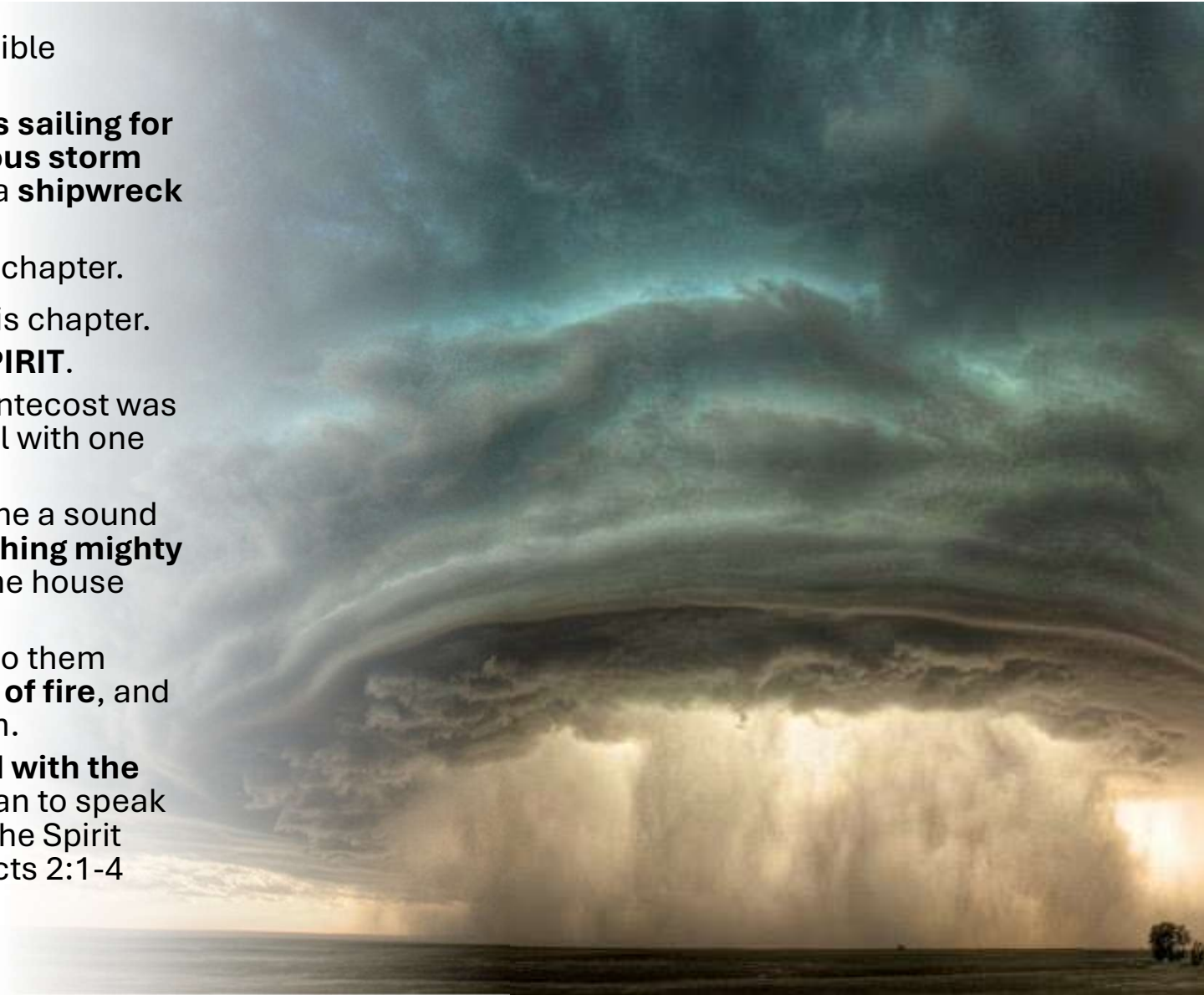
- **New kinds of pressures** are coming at us in new kinds of ways.
- Will we be **overwhelmed** or will we be **overcomers**?
- **This is not a day to walk by sight.**
 - For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Those who are governed by their senses are going to reap the **death** of their **natural** minds.
- But we are called to walk **AFTER** the **SPIRIT**.
- You and I are called to walk after the **WORD** of **GOD**.
- **It is raining on the just and on the unjust.**
 - That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and **sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.** Matthew 5:45



- The stress and the strain of the **old order** gasping for breath and the **new order** kicking hard to be born is coming upon the **just** and the **unjust**.
- **We have been caught in a storm.**
- All our **rowing** is in **vain**.
- All **human effort** to thwart the stormy **wind** fulfilling His Word is **destined to fail**.
 - Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word.
Psalms 148:8
- **Every social, political, religious, and technological program of man is not enough.**



- This is seen most clearly in the Bible account of Acts 27.
 - This chapter is where **Paul is sailing for Rome**. There is a **tremendous storm** with **high winds** at sea and a **shipwreck** at Malta.
 - I encourage you to read this chapter.
- There are four principles from this chapter.
 - 1) The **WIND** is the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
 - And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of **a rushing mighty WIND**, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
 - And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them.
 - And **they were all filled with the HOLY GHOST**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4



- 2) the **STORM** is the **DAY OF THE LORD**.
 - Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: **for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;**
 - A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. Joel 2:1-2
- 3) The **SHIP** is a **WORLD SYSTEM HEADED FOR THE ROCKS**.
 - **Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;**
 - And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,**
 - **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**
 - **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**
 - When he shall come **to be glorified in his saints**, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.
 - Wherefore also we pray always for you, that **our God would count you worthy of this calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:
 - That **the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you**, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12



This World System is a
SHIP Headed for the
Rocks and
ALL OF US ARE ON
BOARD.

- 4) And **PAUL** is an **OVERCOMING MAN WHO WILL TAKE OVER THE SHIP.**
 - Till **we all come in the unity of the faith,** and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:13
- This cosmos (**world**) is an **ORDER**, a **SYSTEM**, an **ARRANGEMENT of THINGS.**
- It is a lifestyle that is stamped and marked by the **beastly mentality of human genius** and the **beastly behavior of human strength.**
- **This world system is headed for the rocks and ALL of us are on board.**
- All of us have been **caught** by a storm from the East.
- All of us are being **lashed about** with **the fury of God's righteous judgements.**
- What can we do about it?

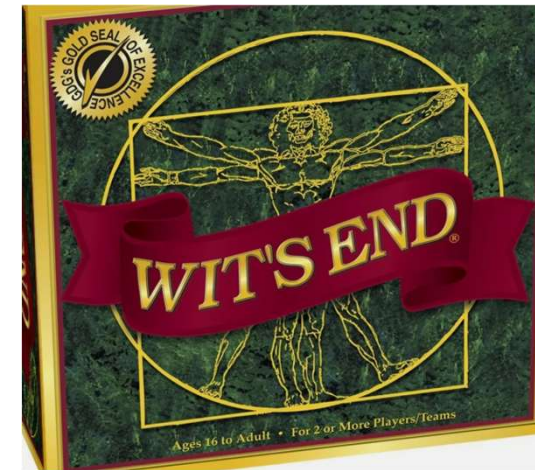


- We might as well “let her drive”.
 - And **when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.** Acts 27:15
- And we better understand that **God is not going to take us out of this storm, but He is going to give us His grace to press through tribulation.**
- There are some “die-hards” on board who are every **trying to escape** on the “lifeboat”.
 - And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat.
 - And **as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship**, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,
 - Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, **Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.**
 - Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and **let her fall off.** Acts 27:16,30-32



We are coming to our Wit's end

- **The time will come** when even the means of escape will be cut off from the minds of God's people.
- But **why is a storm necessary?**
- The Bible gives us the answer in Psalms 107:23-30 and provides an Old Testament commentary on Acts 27.
 - They that go down to the sea in **SHIPS**, that do business in great waters;
 - These see the **WORKS of the LORD**, and **His wonders** in the deep.
 - For He commandeth, and raiseth **the STORMY WIND**, which lifteth up the waves thereof.
 - They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their **SOUL** is melted because of **TROUBLE**.
 - **They reel to and fro**, and stagger like a drunken man, and **are at their WIT'S END**.
 - Then they cry unto the **LORD** in their trouble, and **he bringeth them out of their distresses**.
 - **He maketh the storm a calm**, so that the waves thereof are still.
 - Then are they glad **because they be quiet**; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Psalms 107:23-30



- Man's **SOUL** is his **intellect**, his **emotions**, and his **will**.
- The word for **WIT** in Psalms 107:27 means "**wisdom** (in mind, word, or act), intelligent, skillful, artful, cunning, subtile."
- **God is bringing an END to man's wisdom, intelligence, and skill.**
- God is moving in your life and mine **through pressures to bring an end to our wisdom, intelligence, and skill.**
- **We are coming to our wit's end! Hallelujah!**
 - Look upon Zion, ...there the glorious LORD *will be* unto us a place of broad rivers *and* streams; wherein shall go no **GALLEY** with **OARS**, neither shall **GALLANT** ship pass thereby....Thy **TACKLINGS** are loosed; they could not well strengthen their **MAST**, they could not spread the **SAIL**: then is the prey of a great **SPOIL** divided; the **LAME** take the prey. And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein ***shall be forgiven their iniquity.*** Isaiah 33:20-24



- **Man must be brought to his knees.**
- The margin of **Psalms 107:27** says, “**all their wisdom swallows itself up**”.
- We have been apprehended for **Zion**.
- There are no **GALLIES** in **Zion**.
- There are no **SLAVES** in **Zion** who are **rowing in their own strength**.
- The **GALLANT** ships shall not pass by.
- The **PROUD** who in leisure and luxury know all the answers and sail into waters of their own choosing are going to be **BROKEN** in the **DAY OF THE LORD**.





- Has God loosened your **tacklings**?
- Has He dealt with your **mast** so that you cannot spread your **sail**?
- The **SAIL** speaks of that which gives **energy** and **strength** to the **DIRECTION** of a ship, and the **tacklings** and the mast **SUPPORT** the sail.
- I am simply saying that you and I are under the dealings of the Lord and **we cannot CHART OUR OWN COURSE!**
- This is for our **GOOD**, for the Father desires to divide the great spoil of Jesus' victory and only the **LAME** can receive it.
- **God must smite our human strength.**

- **Jacob's thigh has to be dealt with.**

- And **Jacob was left alone**; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.
 - And **when he saw that he prevailed not against him**, he touched the hollow of his thigh; **and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.**
 - And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, **I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.**
 - And he said unto him, What *is* thy name? And he said, **Jacob.**
 - And he said, **Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.**
 - And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore *is* it *that* thou dost ask after my name? **And he blessed him there.**
 - And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for **I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.**
 - And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and **he halted upon his thigh.**
 - Therefore the children of Israel eat not *of* the sinew which shrank, which *is* upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: **because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh** in the sinew that shrank.
- Genesis 32:24-32

God will Smite Our Human Strength



- Only those who have met God face to face in the night season can partake of the inheritance.
- Only those who have **pressed through a stormy wind** will take the prey.
- There must be a **battle** if there is to be a **victory**.
- **I must lose my life to obtain His life.**
- There is an **overcoming Church** on the horizon who will be forgiven of all iniquity and healed of all diseases.
 - Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases. Psalms 103:3
- **We must decrease** that the **Christ in us** can **increase** and come forth in victory.



NOR GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL

Ephesians 4:27

- God **loves** us.
- He wants **to help us**.
- **This storm is of God!**
- Some have been taught otherwise, and so they cry,
 - And I said, **Oh that I had wings like a dove! *for then* would I fly away**, and be at rest.
 - I would **hasten my escape from the windy storm *and* tempest**. Psalms 55:6,8
- Too many today have done what Paul said not to do:
 - **Neither give place to the devil**. Ephesians 4:27

Not Everything Negative Thing is from the Devil

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- Most people are **double-minded**.
 - **A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.** James 1:8
- Most people have a mind that operates by the principle of **DUALITY** and not **SINGLENESS**.
- Their frame of mind sees God **AND** the devil, and, from a practical observation, the devil is just as big if not bigger than God.
- To these who see the **negative** above the **positive**, the devil is **big**, and **mean**, and **nasty**.

- I believe in a **DEFEATED** devil.
 - And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation**; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:
 - And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; **how shall then his kingdom stand?**
 - And if I by **Beelzebub** cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges.
 - But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, **then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**
 - Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, **except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.**
 - **He that is not with me is against me;** and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.
- Matthew 12:25-30



- People often attribute certain things to the devil and unwittingly do that which he wants: worship him.
- **Satan is a dog on a leash.**
- **He is being used of the Father.**
 - Now there was a day **when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.**
 - And **the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou?** Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.
 - And the **LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job**, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
 - Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, **Doth Job fear God for nought?**
 - **Hast not thou made an hedge about him**, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.
 - **But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.**
 - And the **LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power**; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. Job 1:6-12



- That which took place in Job's life was initiated by **GOD** and not Satan.
 - And the LORD said unto Satan, **Hast thou considered my servant Job**, that *there is* none like him in the earth, **a perfect and an upright man**, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Job 1:8
- **Jesus has bound the strong man**, so let me encourage you to go down to the gates of hell and get some building material so we can get God's House ready so that Jesus can live in it when he returns.
- **The body of Christ that HE is building** is going to be an **overcoming people** who can **STAND** in the last day.
- God will bring things your way **to go against** what **YOU THINK**, what **YOU FEEL**, what **YOU WANT**.
 - Soul – feel, want, think

T

BINDING THE STRONG MAN

- Do you understand the **source** or the **purpose** of **pressure**?
- God will bring a lot your way **to CROSS the way that you think**, the way that you feel, and the way that you want.
- Your **soul** and your carnal **mind will be crossed by the Lord**.
- **GOD's** positive becomes **YOUR** negative.
- And some teach that **ANYTHING** negative that comes your way is not of the Lord, but of the devil.
- **We are not ignorant of Satan's devices.** (2 Corinthians 2:11).
- Put on **Christ** and **STAND** your ground.
 - 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**.
 - **STAND therefore, having your loins girt about with truth**, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. Ephesians 6:13-14



When God is Your Enemy

- I beseech you to be balanced and realize that:
- For the **flesh lusteth against the Spirit**, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Galatians 5:17
- The word, “**contrary**” means “to be **opposite**, be adverse to, adversary, oppose, to be set against”.
- There is a verse in the **Old Testament** that clarifies these truths:
 - But they **rebelled**, and **vexed** his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their **ENEMY**, *and* he fought against them. Isaiah 63:10
- Everything that happened to Israel in the Old Testament happened for our example and learning.
 - **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. 1 Corinthians 10:11

- When Israel rebelled against the Lord, **he became their ENEMY!**
- God becomes your enemy when you walk after the flesh, **for the carnal mind is HOSTILE toward God.**
 - **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God:** for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. Romans 8:7
- Now let us look at the verses in Isaiah 63 that precede verse 10.
 - I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, *and* the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.
 - For he said, **Surely they are my people, children *that will not lie*:** so he was their Saviour.
 - In all their affliction he was afflicted, and **the angel of his presence saved them:** in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:7-9



- He was their Savior **in all their AFFLICTIONS.**
- We have a High Priest **who can be touched with the feelings** of our **infirmities.**
 - 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.** Hebrews 4:15
- **He has sat where we sit.**
 - Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and **I sat where they sat**, and remained there astonished among them seven days. Ezekiel 3:15
- But **God's people**, then and now, **rebel and grieve** the Holy Ghost.
- When this happens, God **becomes your adversary.**



The HOLY Spirit comes against the UNHOLY Spirit.

- Whenever the believer **frustrates the grace of God by being bull-headed in his conceit, or stubbornness, or pride, or bitterness, or resentment, the HOLY Spirit becomes his enemy.**
- In that moment **the Holy Ghost becomes the adversary** against that **UNHOLY** attitude.
- And for our **GOOD, God will fight with us...to correct us.**
- God will **train** and **disciple** us as sons.
- This will produce the **peaceable fruit of righteousness** in us.
 - And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:**
 - **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?**
 - But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye **bastards**, and **not sons**.
 - Furthermore we have had **fathers of our flesh** which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in **subjection unto the Father of spirits**, and live?
 - For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
 - Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Hebrews 12:5-11

To be carnally minded is death.

God wants us to live.

God will trouble us, and we will learn to press through this tribulation.

It is most important in this hour that we be balanced in our preaching and our practice.

Everything negative that happens in your life is not of the devil.

Some of it is.

But there are many practical areas of our lives in the home and ministry that need to be addressed in the light of these principles.

There are those who presume to have a ministry.

There is a classic example of this in the Old Testament.

David Told of Absalom's Death

Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, **Let me now run**, and bear the king tidings, **how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.**

And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day...

Then said Joab to Cushi, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cushi bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok **YET AGAIN** to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush.

And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that **THOU HAST NO TIDINGS READY?**

But howsoever, *said he*, **let me run....**

And the king said, *Is the young man Absalom safe?* And Ahimaaz answered,...I saw a great tumult, but I **KNEW NOT WHAT IT WAS**. And the king said *unto him*, Turn aside, *and* stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

2 Samuel 18:19-23; 29-30



Ahimaaz means “brother of anger”.

- The angry young man **had never learned** of the **basic principles** of God's Kingdom.
- He was **impulsive** and **self-willed**.
- Even with his **stubborn attitudes**, he knows that something is happening.
- He is a “**good man**”, **but that is not enough**.
 - And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.
2 Samuel 18:27
- Unlike Cushie, **he has never bowed in submission** to older warriors.
- Hear him cry, “Let me preach!”
- So many today have “**no tidings of any profit.**”



- The revelation of the Word **has never been birthed in their spirit or worked out through tribulation.**
- **They are not PROVEN!**
- Young preacher, have you **identified** with a local people?
- Have you been **trained** by older ministry?
- Do you know what God is **saying** today?
- **An immature ministry will fall apart.**
- People are **hurt** and the devil is **blamed**. Nonsense!
- **Stop blaming the devil for the problems caused by man's rebellion!**
- We are going to reap what we sow.



- Some **preachers** are running **without a message**.
- Some **singers** are worse as they presume that the yoke shall be destroyed through **talent**.
 - And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and **the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing**. Isaiah 10:27
- Then every **problem** and **setback** is blamed on the **devil**.
- **Have you ever considered that the Lord is trying to shut down YOUR program** that you might stand still long enough to be part of **HIS program**?



- These are not **suffering for righteousness' sake**.
 - Blessed *are* they which are **persecuted for righteousness' sake**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:10
- But Peter explained what is happening: you might be **suffering** as a fool.
 - **But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.** 1 Peter 4:15
- I challenge you to **take a real good look** at your life or ministry.
- Everything that is in the realm of the **negative** cannot be wrapped in one blanket statement and given to the devil.

1 Peter 4:15

Make sure you
do not suffer
as an evildoer



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- Often sheep get themselves into trouble because of their own stubbornness.
 - They do not want to face the root of their heartache: their own rebellion.
 - Abraham produced Ishmael with a good idea and faith in a good idea, and Ismael was a WILD man.
 - Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.
 - And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.
 - And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.
 - And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.
 - And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.
- Genesis 16:1-4,12

Good ideas are not always God's plan



Are you Producing that which is of God?

- **Ishamael** was a wild ass, untamed and fierce.
- That **same nature in us** will reproduce itself in **our own ambitions and desires**.
- We will always give birth to that which is **within ourselves**.
- **It will look like us. It will BE us!**
- God is going to deal with you and me **face to face** and then **cast out every wild thing** that we have produced.
 - And Abraham said unto God, **O that Ishmael might live before thee!**
 - And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking**.
 - Wherefore she said unto Abraham, **Cast out this bondwoman and her son**: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.
 - And **the thing was very grievous** in Abraham's sight because of his son.
 - And God said unto Abraham, **Let it not be grievous in thy sight** because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.
 - **And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.**
 - And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and **sent her away**: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. Genesis 17:18, 21:9-14



**GOD is troubling you, Abraham, to
produce a Divine nature in you that
will multiply itself into a nation!**

**Lord, help us to discern whether our troubles are from the devil
or if they are a result of us doing things our own way.**

SEARCH ME, O GOD!

Search me, O God, and know
my heart today; try me, O
Savior, know my thoughts, I
pray. See if there be some
wicked way in me; cleanse me
from ev'ry sin and set me free.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL_sd1gH6hU&list=RDTl_sd1gH6hU&start_radio=1