

TAKING BACK WHAT THE DEVIL HAS STOLEN

By Donna R. Jensen

Psychology has observed that it takes three to four generations to get things like:

INCEST ABUSE and ALCOHOLISM

out of a family.

The Bible says something similar. It says that the sins of the father's will be visited on the children to the third and fourth generation. Exodus 20:5

Dear one, that's a **curse**.

* The good news
of the Gospel is
that we can break
curses and stop all
that grief **today!**

In Joel 2:25 we read, "And I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten." The Devil's thievery can be stopped and we can take back what he has stolen. That's something to get excited about! It's a crime to suffer needlessly. Matthew 22:29 "...Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God.

We can't expect to get through life without suffering, but why suffer needlessly from ignorance of God's word and His principles for living? Don't just let life happen to you. If you choose to study anything, study how to live.

Satan, the father of lies, is convincing multitudes today that there is no absolute truth, that each of us discovers truth as it pertains to our individual lives. It's okay if your truth and my truth are different. You can practice your truth over there and I'll practice mine over here and we'll tolerate each other. Truth is defined in the

dictionary as being an obvious or accepted fact. If we as individuals make up the rules we live by as we go along, look out for the guy who's having a bad day, or someone with no morals, or someone who believes that might makes right. They won't stay in their space. They'll get up in your face! Who will determine whose truth has the most truth in it, since we have concluded there is no *real* truth? I've discovered that truth is a person. That's right, and His name is Jesus Christ. In John 14:6 He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Can you imagine what it was like to talk to Jesus in the flesh and come to the realization that He was pure truth? He spoke the truth very kindly but every word was backed by the power of God. Those who listened commented that His words rang with authority.

The truth is that our universe is governed by two sets of laws, physical and spiritual. Sin sets natural consequences in motion. When you are undisciplined, disobedient, or out of harmony with God, you forfeit your claim to His protection and are at the mercy of the Devil and natural laws. God doesn't send floods, or poverty, or disease. Broken natural laws send them. Sin sends them. God can't intervene until we repent and ask Him to intervene. Most of the drought, poverty, and disease in the world exist where false religions have a hold on the people.

Some sins carry curses and open doors for demons to come in and take control. In Deuteronomy chapters 27 and 28, curses are promised in these six areas: IDOLATRY, DISHONORING OF PARENTS, DISHONESTY AND DECEPTION, CRUELTY TO THE HELPLESS, SEXUAL SIN of ANY KIND, and DISREGARD for the LAW.

The flip side of the coin of cursing is blessing. In Jeremiah 30:39 we find, "I will give them singleness of heart and action... for their good and the good of their children after them."

Let's take a look at these curses. In the New Testament period idolatry came to include the replacement of God in the mind of the worshiper. We must be on guard not to let houses, land, vehicles, our children, anything at all, come between us and God.

Sexual unfaithfulness of a husband or wife in thought and action is adultery, as well as unlawful relationships between men and women, single and married. The penalty for adultery and fornication is spiritual death. Galatians 5:19-21 Don't just slide over that. SPIRITUAL DEATH is eternity in Hell. Life isn't about you and your sexual itches. It's about walking with God and fulfilling your destiny. In Pro-

verbs 6:32 it says, “But he that commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding, he that does it destroys his own soul. A wound and a dishonor shall he receive, and his reproach shall not be wiped away.”

In First Corinthians 6:18 we are warned, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he that commits fornication, sins against his own body.” All sins destroy, but he that commits fornication, sins against his entire constitution, even his body, soul, and spirit.

It’s easy to deceive ourselves. David deceived himself into thinking that there was nothing wrong with his relationship with Bathsheba. In a short time, he went from godly man to adulterer to murderer, and found no guilt in himself. The child of that union died. You won’t always feel the danger you are heading into or a tug on your conscience to warn you of what you’re getting involved in. You need to make the decision today that you will not for one moment consider sexual sin. If you are in sexual sin, decide to get out of it NOW. Yes, God will forgive but not all things can be restored. Whatever you do, don’t sin presumptuously. Don’t give Satan an opening. Live in the peace and security that comes from walking with God.

Becoming born again doesn’t break the curses over your life or serve an eviction notice to demons that have taken up residence. Curses need to be broken and demons need to be cast out. We’ve been given the authority to do that in Jesus’ name. In Matthew 10:8 we find, “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons: freely you have received, freely give.”

As you see, this is a command. How many of us are falling short of our duty as Christians by not exercising the power that is ours in Jesus name? The sin of unbelief renders us powerless to serve God and ignorance of the word keeps us from seeking deliverance from Satan’s bondage.

Madeline was so changed after several demons were cast out of her that her friend, Jane, asked for an explanation. “You were already filled with the Holy Spirit,” she said, “what more was there to get?”

Embarrassed, Madeline confessed, “It’s not that I got something more, it’s that I got rid of some things I shouldn’t have had.” She explained that she had opened herself to the invasion of demons when she became involved with the occult in an attempt to discover if her mother was in heaven. Stunned, Jane hung on her every word as Madeline explained how she had been prayed for and set free.

“God, help me,” exclaimed Jane, “that’s what I need!” She told Madeline how she had received Jesus as her savior when she was only five. That same year something evil had entered her as she and her mother watched a murder committed in a movie on television. There before their eyes, a woman picked up a pair of scissors and stabbed a man to death.

Jane cried, remembering the horror of it. As she regained control of her voice, she went on brokenly, “After that, every time I saw a pair of scissors, I heard a voice urging me to take the scissors and kill.... I nearly killed my babies as newborns because I was so weak physically ... I cried out to God, asking Him to take my life rather than let me do something like that... I couldn’t tell anyone. They’d have locked me up and thrown away the key!”

A spirit of murder was cast out of Jane and twenty-five years of battling that demon ended. Youth leader and choir director of her church, she didn’t go forward to tell them of her experience. There is no shame in having a demon; there is only shame in keeping it after you discover it’s there.

Right now, you’re either writing this off as impossibility, or wondering if you might have a demon. That can be a scary thought. Fear is one of Satan’s favorite tools because it’s so easily received. Before we know it, it’s upon us. Fear of any kind should be rebuked in Jesus name. The longer you entertain it, the more control it takes.

If there is some area of your life that you have lost control of, it may be that it has been taken over by a demon. To get rid of a demon, you must be willing to clean up your life as Jesus shows you the need. Once you are free of the demon, you must decide not to continue in the sin. The decision will still be yours, but empowered by the Holy Spirit you will be able to make a godly choice.

When curses have been broken, demons cast out, and your memories healed, you will be free to be the man or woman God created you to be. That doesn’t mean sickness will not try to attack you, or that Satan will leave you alone, or that you and everyone else will be what you should be. But if you now abide in the vine, you can trust that Romans 8:28 will apply to you. “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”