

CHAPTER 4

The Dark Side of the Supernatural

FALLEN ANGELS USED TO SIFT OUT PROUD, REBELLIOUS HUMANS

Some may be wondering how and why so many people worldwide have been deceived and hindered from believing in the true God and His only Son Jesus. Here is a major part of the problem. It seems that from the beginning of the world Satan had a strategy to usurp worship from God and to deceive the human race (Genesis 3:1-7). Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan rather than God and forfeited their precious opportunity for ongoing relationship with their loving Creator in the beauty of Paradise in Eden. Along with this, man lost his God given dominion and rule over the earth (Gen. 1:26-28) to Satan by his choice to rebel against God's command and to listen to Satan's lies. Through this event a legal exchange took place that gave the evil usurper license to influence humanity and the world toward his wicked agenda. The door was opened to Satan and his evil host of fallen angels to compete with God for the hearts and allegiance of humanity. Thus, the spiritual Cosmic Battle of the ages was launched for the eternal souls of mankind. Humans as free will agents now had to choose who they would listen to and yield their hearts and allegiance. The LORD God Almighty loves us and has made Himself known to all His creation through His Word (the Bible) and by what He has made (Romans 8:8-17; 1:20). He also reveals Himself to all and any who desire to do what is right and earnestly seek to know Him through His only begotten Son (Jer. 29:11-14a; John 1:18). One other way that God may reveal Himself to those who don't know Him and His salvation is through prayer. As Believers earnestly pray for those we love and care about, God hears our cry and it moves His heart to act. He will begin to sovereignly bring about circumstances and situations that will touch and turn the hearts of our loved ones toward Him. They still must choose to open their hearts of their own free will, but the Lord will do whatever He can to help them to choose the way of life. Our compassionate prayers make a difference (Psalm 126:5-6). *Please Google Jeanette Strauss and Courtroom of Heaven prayer for loved ones.*

Satan or Lucifer in His evil pride seeks to steal the worship that only God deserves (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:13-19). He and the fallen angels who work with him covet the service and worship of humanity and are the spiritual forces behind every false religion and vain belief system and every branch of false Christianity as well. The ultimate result is that satanic powers are being used to sift or separate humanity. Those who are proud, independent and rebellious in heart would follow Satan's

deceptive traps while those who are willing to embrace truth and humbly surrender their lives to the true God and His ways would follow Jesus and His Word. One needs to realize that there is no neutral or middle ground in this cosmic battle between truth and deception. We are either following God by being “*born again*” through Jesus Christ or we’re following Satan through one of his lie-based ideologies or religions. *Which camp will you choose to give your allegiance?* As mentioned earlier Jesus declared that He is “*the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me*” (John 14:6 KJV). A little later we will discuss more fully why Jesus is the only way to God the Father.

NONBIBLICAL RELIGIONS WORSHIP SATAN AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS

In light of the above, the reality is that all other Gentile religions and the *gods* they are worshipping and serving are not the true God, but are fallen angels or demons as revealed in the following scriptures.

¹⁶ “They provoked Him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they Him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not” (Deuteronomy 32:16-17 KJV).

¹⁹ “What say I then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? ²⁰ But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. ²¹ Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. ²² Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than He?” (I Corinthians 10: 19-22 KJV).

Please do not take offense but keep your heart open to the hard truths that most all of us have to come to terms with; and that is that we’ve been deceived by evil powers. Another name for these evil fallen angels is *demons or devils*.

Through these false religions and ideologies these demons or fallen angelic beings seek to divert worship from the true God to themselves. Once again, we reiterate Satan and his army are in effect sifting agents used to separate those who choose to follow him and his deceptive demons from those who choose to embrace truth and follow the true God revealed through Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

Another thing we need to understand is that Hell or “*the Lake of Fire*” was not created for man, but for Satan and the angels who chose to follow him,⁴⁰ “*And the*

King (Jesus) shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.' ⁴¹ "Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, **'Depart from Me, ye cursed, into the everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels'**" (Matthew 25:40-41). Unfortunately, it will also be the eternal destination for the humans who also choose to follow in his proud, deceptive and rebellious footsteps.

Out of pure pride and hatred for God and His creation, Satan and his evil spirit army work to draw people away from knowing God and being a part of His eternal family. These evil entities use their many forms of religion and ideologies (including occultism, communism, atheism and agnosticism) to separate people from their Creator to follow them. They are destined for the eternal "lake of fire" and they are hell bent on taking as many humans (who are created in God's image) with them into this eternal torment. Until that day they take perverse pleasure in the worship, service and possession of humans who follow them in their religious and ideological traps.

EVIDENCE THAT FALLEN ANGELS (DEMONS) ARE VERY REAL

Please realize that this is no game and these spiritual forces are very real entities. One of their most effective deceptions is convincing people that they don't exist, that they're figments of people's imagination. Deb and I have experienced real life encounters with these fallen angelic beings (demons) and they indeed do exist. One of the most dramatic incidents took place shortly after we surrendered our lives to Jesus. Pastor Abraham Kudra our pastor at Calvary Pentecostal Church in Woodstock asked us to accompany him on an emergency call to a family that was experiencing the demonic possession of a tiny young lady in their family.



This little woman was a little over four and a half feet in height and was exhibiting supernatural strength and terrifyingly vulgar and abusive behaviour toward her family. At the time when we arrived it took four big strong men to immobilize her and they could barely hold her down while Pastor Kudra prayed for the demon to come out of her. In Jesus' name he commanded the demon spirit to release her. After a brief struggle of writhing and flailing the spirit came out. Suddenly, complete peace and calm swept over the young lady and she never struggled again. Amazingly she became this meek and mild little person who wouldn't harm a flea. She was completely set free by the power of Jesus' name. The fallen angelic spirit or demon was driven out and left her in total peace. *Dear Pastor Kudra, we want to sincerely thank you for your love for us and for helping and encouraging us in the early*

days of our walk with God. God bless you Pastor for your labour of love and your investment into our lives through God's Word. We will never forget your patience, love and the Christ-like character you exhibited even in the face of adversity. We will also cherish the memories of the very special candlelight wedding ceremony when you married us and when you baptized us the following Sunday. We love and appreciate you very much and may the Lord richly bless and keep you ever in His loving care.

DRUGS ONE MAJOR GATEWAY TO DEMONIC OPPRESSION & POSSESSION

Another personal experience with the demonic realm worth noting was also in Woodstock with a young street youth named Rick. Rick was addicted to heroin and was driving his bike one Sunday morning while suffering intense withdrawal from the lack of a needed fix he couldn't afford. He was furiously driving through every red light in the hope that he would incur a collision that would end his life. Suddenly he found himself in front of Calvary Church and in an act of desperation he entered the service not knowing what to expect. He stumbled to the front of the sanctuary and awkwardly deposited himself on the front pew. He was sweating profusely and I could see the look of anguish on his face. I decided in that moment to get up from my seat and join him at the front to support him in whatever way I could. At the conclusion of the service Pastor Kudra invited those to come forward who wanted to surrender their lives to Christ. I went with Rick and we prayed together until the spirit of bondage that had entered his life through heroine was broken and he was set free in Jesus' mighty Name. Rick humbly repented of his sin and received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Miraculously Jesus entered Rick's life and the evil spiritual power that accompanied the occult power of heroine was driven out and he was liberated. It needs to be understood that evil spirits gain access to people's lives through mind-altering drugs such as heroin, cocaine, LSD and even Marijuana. The Greek word for witchcraft, sorcery and magic is *pharmakeia* from which is derived the English word pharmacy. These mind-altering drugs are an integral part of occult practices that bring people into bondage with evil spirits and even into demonic possession. Rick had been brought into bondage to evil powers through his drug addiction, but Jesus set him free. Sadly, many young and old alike are brought into bondage through addiction to drugs including prescription pain killers such as OxyContin. Thank God for Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs like *Teen Challenge* a worldwide program started by the late Rev. David Wilkerson. You can read or watch the miraculous account of Wilkerson's (a small-town preacher's) divine call to the streets of New York City to work with the gangs and drug addicts of the inner city in the powerful book or movie entitled *The Cross and the Switchblade*. From this supernaturally orchestrated mission arose the ministry of Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge now operates in many parts of the world helping

youth and adults to be set free from drugs and alcohol by the power of God. This transformative ministry was the subject of a USA government agent's investigation that led to the book *The Jesus Factor*. The investigation was initiated because government run drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres were experiencing only a 6 percent cure rate while Teen Challenge an astounding 86 percent cure rate. The powerful miracle testimonies of the young men interviewed from Teen Challenge resulted in the government Agent's conversion to Christ. Then the Agent wrote the book *The Jesus Factor* to share the life transforming miracle power found in receiving Jesus Christ among these hard-core addicts.

Needless to say, after Rick's deliverance he needed to get out of the unhealthy circle of influence he had been ensnared by. Thankfully we were able to get him into the Teen Challenge program and facility near London, Ontario. After a short season at Teen Challenge, he returned to Woodstock to help reach out to those living on the streets including youth. Rick is only one of multiplied thousands who have been set free by Jesus from drugs and the demonic bondage associated with addiction. Thank God for the power of *The Jesus Factor* to liberate precious lives. Once again, we trust that this testimony will help you to understand the reality of the demonic realm at work around us and the power of Jesus' mighty name to defeat them. Since these encounters with the demonic realm, Deb and I have personally participated in other exorcisms and have seen firsthand the unparalleled power of Jesus to set people free.

EVIL POWERS SEEK TO STEAL YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW GOD

Our personal experiences have proven to us beyond any shadow of doubt that these malevolent spiritual beings exist and that they earnestly seek to deceive and destroy humans (John 10:10a) Jesus said; "*they come to steal, kill and destroy*" using overt deception as their primary weapon as the Holy Spirit reveals in this scripture. ³"*If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.*" ⁴"*Satan, who is the god of this world, (system) has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God*" (II Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT). These spirits first seek to *steal* your opportunity to know God's love and to be reconciled to Him by getting you to pursue their false deceptive agendas. Then when they're finished with using you to further their causes, they seek to *kill* you so that your eternal soul will be *destroyed* in eternal torment with them in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 14:9-11; 20:10-15). The good news is what Jesus declared in this same passage in John chapter 10 ¹⁰"*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10b KJV). Jesus came to give those who love Him an abundant life both now

and for all eternity. He didn't say it would be easy or without tests and trials, but He did promise He would always be with us and enable us to come through victorious (2 Corinthians 2:14).

JESUS GIVES AUTHORITY TO HIS FOLLOWERS TO CAST OUT DEMONS

Jesus also gave authority to His followers to overcome evil powers and to cast them out of others in His mighty name. ¹⁷ ***“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name. ¹⁸ And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven”*** (Luke 10:17-20 KJV). ¹⁵ ***“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but He that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”*** (Mark 16:15-18 KJV). As Believers in Christ, we have authority to cast out demon spirits and to lay hands on the sick and to see them recover. Please note that this authority is not restricted to those like Pastors and Evangelists or other Christian leaders, it is available to all who believe. Every Believer is called to be a minister for Christ where He has placed us (Ephesians 4:11-12) to our family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances. Any Believer can be His hand extended to bring salvation, healing and deliverance to those in our sphere of influence. Please don't limit God in how He can use your life for His glory. As mentioned earlier, Deb and I have personally experienced this delivering and healing power in Jesus' name through our lives for His glory. God is not a respecter of persons and He will do the same through any person who truly *“believes.”*

THE HOLY SPIRIT ABILITY TO SPEAK IN THE TONGUES OF MEN & ANGELS

¹ *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels ...”*
(I Cor. 13:1a KJVER)

For your understanding the above passage mentions that true Believers would be:

- 1) able to speak in new tongues or languages of angels and men (*I Corinthians 13:1*) spontaneously by the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit,
- 2) they could accidentally handle or encounter poisonous serpents and not be harmed,

3) if they drink something poisonous accidentally or by the evil intent of another person it will not harm them.

The first area Deb and I have experienced personally when we were baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Since that day we both received the ability to speak in unknown tongues as the Holy Spirit gives us utterance (Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-5). These Holy Spirit languages can be in a known earthly language or in an unknown angelic language. Either way it will be a language that we are unfamiliar with. Now we pray regularly in this Holy Spirit inspired language that strengthens us spiritually and enables us to pray more effectively in the Spirit (I Corinthians 14:4; Jude 1:20). The gift of speaking in other tongues is one of nine Holy Spirit gifts given supernaturally and is available today to all Believers whether you believe in it or not (I Corinthians 12:7-11). If anyone who believes would like to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues and other spiritual gifts just begin to ask God to fill you. He has promised to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and obey Him (Luke 11:13; Acts 5:32). If nothing manifests you will need to attend a church that believes in the gifts and operations of the Holy Spirit and ask the Pastor or leaders to lay hands on you and pray that you may receive this infilling (Acts 8:14; 19:1-7). If you need help in this regard feel free to contact us at the contact info on the final page.

The second situation is illustrated in the Apostle Paul's life when he was shipwrecked on the Island of Malta. While putting wood on a fire on the beach a poisonous viper bit him on his hand and all the natives were waiting for him to fall over dead, but nothing happened. It led to a powerful opportunity to share the gospel with the Islanders (Acts 28:1-6). The third area covered in this passage we witnessed via Rev. Dr. Joseph Grubb our pastor here in Toronto. One day as he was visiting in the Jane and Finch area, he was invited to a home by a lady who unbeknown to him was a witch. She gave him a drink which had some kind of poison in it. When he got home, he felt nauseated and sick. However, after some personal reflection and prayer, nothing further happened. The next morning the witch phoned Betty Ann to see how Pastor Joseph was feeling and she told her (to her disappointment) that he was absolutely fine. Needless to say, she never invited them to come for a visit again. The spiritual realm is extremely real and we either come under the influence of the Holy Spirit toward good or these evil spiritual powers that will lead us away from God into deception, false beliefs, idolatry, evil acts and sin. If you struggle with believing in God's existence, please hang in there as we will be sharing the scientific evidence for God's existence a little later and you will find it very helpful. Before we go there, we would like to share about the undeniable evidence of God's existence from Bible prophecy and the promised preservation of the Bible.