



---

## How Satan Gains Access to Work in our Lives

### Part 1: Introduction

Having completed our study of *what* the devil can and cannot do in our lives at various levels of bondage, I would like to look at some of the *avenues* through which Satan's forces are given legal ground to affect our lives. Many Christians erroneously believe that because a believer cannot be "demon-possessed," they don't have to worry about any kind of satanic involvement in their lives. If this were so, we would not be given so many admonitions in Scripture to resist the devil and not give him a foothold (Eph. 4:26-27; 1 Peter 5:8-9); nor would we have been given instructions to put on the spiritual armor in order to stand successfully against our adversary (Eph. 6:11-17). The truth is that while the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, we are responsible to rid ourselves of those behaviors and thought patterns that make us vulnerable to attack and influence by evil spiritual beings (2 Cor. 10:5). This is part of the sanctification process for which God thoroughly equips us (2 Peter 1:3).

Instead of asking "Can a believer be "demon-possessed?" Chris Hayward, President of Cleansing Streams Ministries, believes the question should more appropriately be asked: "Is it possible for a Christian to be tempted, to be tormented and harassed by the enemy, to open themselves up to addictions and uncontrollable habits, to have a worldly mind-set and to be taken advantage of by the enemy, to be subject to divisions and strife within the church, to give way to pride, to suffer with fear, rejection, unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, shame, guilt and condemnation?"<sup>1</sup> All of these symptoms, which are clearly possible in the believer's life, indicate that the enemy has gotten his foot in the door and is hindering the work that God wants to do within that person to give him a fruitful and abundant life and bring glory to Himself (John 10:10; Rom. 3:23).

Adam and Eve were the only people (apart from Jesus) who ever came into life with a clean spiritual slate. Along with all that God created, they were pronounced "good" in every sense of the word (Gen. 1:31). Because God wanted them to have a choice in regard to the supernatural being they would love, honor, and depend upon to meet their needs, however, He created Lucifer as an alternative object of devotion for them and allowed him to have access to them in the Garden of Eden.

When they chose to believe and act on his words instead of those of God, man's life and relationship to the spiritual realm changed drastically. Satan (as he was then called) gained dominion over them (Rom. 6:16). This not only affected their eternal destiny but also allowed Satan to establish an internal "rule" over the part of man's soul that became known as the "flesh," thus gaining access to man's innermost drives. The flesh is so devoted to evil and self-seeking pleasures that Scripture says it absolutely *cannot* please God (Rom. 8:5-8). Even when a person is born again and transferred from the dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God, the flesh remains as an internal dynamo thirsting for evil. While the flesh no longer has absolute authority over man's

---

<sup>1</sup> Chris Hayward, "Deliver Us from Deliverance Ministry," Cleansing Streams Ministries Newsletter (Feb. 2007), p.1.

soul and must fight against the Holy Spirit's presence to get its way, it is generally the source of the evil connections established in a believer's life (Rom. 7:21-25; Gal. 5:16-17; Col. 1:13).

In recent years we have come to differentiate more clearly three distinct types of such connections. "Demonic footholds" are established through ungodly character traits and ongoing patterns of sinful indulgence. They allow lower-level evil spirits, or demons, to work in and through a person's life on a consistent basis. What we are now calling "cosmic strongholds" involve connections to higher-level, evil beings that are established when a person's ungodly behavior patterns become more deeply embedded or when deliberate dedications to these entities have been made. The effect on the person in these cases is much more powerful and enduring. "Generational inheritances" are cosmic connections that are established through specific curses uttered against an individual and his family line or when deep patterns of unrepentant sin continue through successive generations. We will look at each of these types of bondage in this extended study.