



TIES THAT BIND
Freedom in Christ

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Ties the Bind

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INTRODUCTION

The Battle Is Real — And So Is Your Freedom

You are not imagining it.

There is a battle raging over your life — over your mind, your relationships, your health, your destiny. The enemy is not subtle, and he is not fair. He works through deception, through generational wounds, through broken covenants and unhealed soul ties. He exploits every foothold, every act of unforgiveness, every lie you have come to believe about yourself and about God.

But here is the truth that the enemy does not want you to know: Jesus Christ has already won. The cross was not a tragedy — it was a triumph. And everything you will read in these pages flows from that one unshakeable reality.

This book was written for Christians who are tired of living below the freedom Christ died to give them. Perhaps you have been a believer for years, yet you keep hitting the same walls — the same patterns of defeat, the same emotional cycles, the same inexplicable heaviness that never quite lifts. You love Jesus. You read your Bible. You attend a Christian fellowship. And still, something feels bound.

That is not God's design for your life. The Word is clear: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). Not partial freedom. Not freedom in theory. Full, walking, breathing, everyday freedom.

In the pages ahead, we will walk through the biblical foundations of spiritual warfare with honesty and without fear. We will examine how demonic influence can affect believers, how curses operate and how they are broken, what soul-ties are and how to sever ungodly ones, how wounds in your soul become landing strips for the enemy — and how the glory light of Jesus heals them. We will confront the seductive deception of the religious spirit, and we will stand on the authority that belongs to every child of God.

This is not a book about fear. It is a book about freedom. Every chapter is an invitation to step further into the life that Jesus purchased for you at Calvary.

Read with an open heart. Pray as you go. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide. He knows exactly where the chains are, and He knows exactly how to break them.

Your freedom is not a distant hope. It is your inheritance.

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New Testament examples

A debate has been going on for a very long time. Can someone be a believer and still be influenced and oppressed by demons? Wasn't it finished at the cross?

The answer is yes, and yes. A person can be saved, filled with Holy spirit, speaking in tongues and still be dealing with oppression. How can I be so sure? Because it is my story. As a follower of Jesus Christ, fully surrendered to Him, baptized and filled with His Spirit, and speaking in tongues, I still had problems. Spiritual problems that called for a spiritual answer. I needed deliverance and bloodline deliverance before I was able to walk in the fullness of what Jesus paid for at the cross.

The New Testament is filled with scriptural examples of this truth. Let's consider a few of these scriptures together.

In Matthew 16:23 we read: "*Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."*Cross references:

Did Jesus say that Peter was indeed Satan? No, what He was saying was that Peter was being influenced by a spirit other than the Spirit of God. Peter's thoughts were influenced by a demon.

Luke, a gentile physician and close companion of the Apostle Paul write about an incident what Jesus was rejected by a village full of Samaritans. The disciples reacted in a way that was not godly. He writes:

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them." (Luke 9:51 – 55 ESV)

In Acts 5 we read about a couple called Ananias and Sapphira who agreed together to lie about the price they received for a piece of land they sold. From verse 4 it is clear that they were speaking under the influence of a demonic spirit.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

This was catastrophic for the couple. Both dropped down dead and to this day they stand as a warning to us... agreement with the enemy always leads to death.

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What does the Bible say ... can a Christians be deceived?

The Word of God is very clear that believers can be deceived. Let's explore some of these verses:

1 Timothy 4:1

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

James 3:13 - 16

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."*

James 1:16, 17

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

From these examples it is very clear that Christians can be deceived and therefore we are cautioned to take care.

We are to test spirits, according to 1 John 4: 1 – 3 that says: *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God."*

CURSES

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The writer of Proverbs makes a very important statement. He says:

"Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not alight."

(Proverbs 26:2)

In other words, if there's a curse, there's always a cause. Something happened that caused it. This is good news when we walk in righteousness. Unfortunately, it also means that when a person sin against God, especially committing sexual sin, acts of idolatry, dabbling in the occult or witchcraft they and their bloodline can come under a curse.

Deuteronomy 28 is a chapter of the Bible which gives us clear causes for both of blessings and curses. The first two verses of Deuteronomy 28 says this:

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come upon you, and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God."

The primary cause of all curses is exactly the opposite. In verse 15 of the same chapter we read:

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes, which I command you today; that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you."

So, what's the cause of curses? Disobedience to God's voice, not doing what He says. Obeying God's voice causes us to walk in blessing, and disobedience to God's voice, opens the door to curses. Not only will disobedience impact us personally, but it can have far-reaching consequences for the generations after us. Gross sin will open doors to bloodline curses that will stay in effect until someone from that bloodline takes responsibility for breaking them and embark on a journey of bloodline deliverance.

When a person, or a bloodline, is released from a curse, they will have to commit to a lifestyle of obedience to God's voice to stay free. If anyone goes back to a lifestyle of willful disobedience and sin, it is possible to come under oppression and curses again.

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"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation." Matthew 12:43-45 ESV

Causes of Curses

God is just and fair, and He gives us clear instruction and warning about the sins and practices that will bring us under a curse. Here is a list, with scriptural references for self-study.

God Himself (Exodus 20:3-5)

Disobedience (Deuteronomy 27:15-26)

Treachery

Injustice to the Weak or Helpless

Illicit or Unnatural Sex

Anti-Semitism (Genesis. 12:3)

Trust in Man (Jeremiah 17:5-6)

Perjury, which is the sin of swearing falsely (Zechariah 5:1-4)

Stinginess Toward God (Malachi 3:8-10)

Preaching False Gospel (Galatians 1:8-9)

God's "Mouthpieces" (Joshua 6:26)

Relational Authority (Genesis 31:30)

Self-imposed (Genesis 27:11)

Unscriptural Covenants – freemasonry, druidism, and other secret societies

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Servants of Satan (Numbers 22:4–6)

Abominations (idols) in the Home (Deuteronomy 7:26)

Forms of curses

Curses can take on various forms. It can manifest as

- Humiliation
- Failure to reproduce or barrenness. Barrenness is nearly always in some way associated with a curse.
- Sickness and disease, especially if it runs in the family
- Poverty or failure – no matter how hard a person work, they never get ahead
- Defeat
- You're the tail and not the head
- You're beneath, not above

The presence of any one of these signs doesn't necessarily confirm you're under a curse — but it warrants prayerful reflection and seeking God. However, if several of them apply to you, the more that do, the stronger the likelihood that a curse may be at work.

Here is a list of problems that can indicate a curse at work:

Mental and/or emotional breakdown

Mental health issues, especially if it runs in families can indicate a spiritual problem, which needs a spiritual solution.

Repeated or chronic sicknesses

Hereditary illness points to a curse, as it passes from generation to generation. Also, in situations where doctors cannot find any rational or medical cause, it would be wise to explore a spiritual cause.

Female problems

Barrenness, a tendency to miscarry, stillbirths, and problems with menstruation are often indicative of a curse.

A breakdown of marriage and family alienation

Where families fall apart, where marriages break up, where children are alienated from their parents, brothers from sisters, it is very probably a curse at work.

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Financial insufficiency

Poverty for a short period— may be a test that God is putting us through or a natural consequence of the economic climate. However, if a person is always short, if they never have enough, if they're always scraping by, regardless of how hard they work it's very probably a curse at work.

Accident prone

Unexplained, chronic or freak accidents could be caused by a curse.

A family history of suicides or unnatural deaths

If there's a frequency of those things in a family, it is wise to consider a curse.

You could say a curse is like a long, evil arm from the past, and you don't know how far back it goes. It's stretched out and every time a person is just about to succeed or get to where they want to be, this evil arm trips them up. They have to get up and start again. They only get so far and they're tripped up again. It becomes the story of their life, and that of the generations after them.

So, if any of these apply, you need to be seeking God to show what your particular need or situation or problem is.

The Cure

Even though it might seem like this is bad news, it is actually very easy to deal with curses. The Bible is very clear when it says:

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

There is a 4-step formula that is easy to remember, called "The four R's". It stands for "recognise", "repent", "renounce", and "resist".

The first step is to *Recognise* what the problem is. Just like a medical doctor does when we are sick, we need to diagnose the issue.

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Next, we need to take responsibility and *repent* of anything that we've done that exposed us to the curse. We do not need to repent on behalf of generations before us, as we are not responsible or accountable for the sin of other people.

After repenting, we *Renounce* any agreements we, or our ancestors have made with the enemy. Contracts are often sealed with a handshake, and renouncing those agreements are similar to breaking that handshake. It is a declaration that we are no longer going to be subject to this thing.

Lastly, we *Resist* the enemy. This is a continuous process. We refuse and keep on refusing to let that thing have any control over us again.

James 4:7 says:

"Therefore, submit to God, [not to the enemy, not to demons but to God. And then it says] resist the devil [and what will happen?] he will flee from you." (AMP)

Next, we establish a clear scriptural basis for your release. Remember how Jesus answered Satan when he was tempting Jesus? By knowing and speaking the Word of God, we can refute all allegations, claims and control from the enemy. Learn these scriptures:

Galatians 3:13–14:

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse, having become a curse for us, that we might receive the blessing of Abraham."

Ephesians 1:7:

"In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood."

Colossians 1:12–14:

"The Father has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the son of His love: in whom we have redemption through His blood."

1 John 3:8b:

"... for this purpose the Son of God was revealed, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

Luke 10:19:

"Behold, I give to you authority over all the power of the enemy."

What does this look like in practice? Firstly, commit yourself to obedience. We need to hear God's voice and obey what He says.

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The next step is confessing any known sins, either by yourself or your ancestors. We have already established that the sins of our ancestors can affect us. We are not guilty for your ancestors' sins, but we're affected by them. I am responsible for my own sins, but in order to be fully clear, if a person know that their ancestors were idol worshippers, practiced witchcraft or ancestor worship, or some false religion, or were members of freemasonry or any other cult, they need to be released from it.

Then we need to forgive all other people. Unforgiveness in our heart is a barrier to the answer to our prayers and it will open the door to demonic oppression. Once a root of bitterness takes hold of a person's heart, their life becomes very difficult.

Then we must renounce all contact with the occult, either by ourselves or by our ancestors. Again, we're not responsible, nor guilty for what our ancestors did, but it affects us. We must get rid of all "contact objects", even if they are precious family heirlooms. Bringing them into our house bring a curse with them.

When we've met those conditions, we can release ourselves in the name of Jesus. Jesus said whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever we release on earth will be released in heaven. Sometimes it may be necessary to seek help from our community or from dedicated deliverance ministers, who can come into agreement with us and help us achieve freedom through Christ.

After following these steps, we confess, and expect the blessing of Abraham because we're released from the curse, that we may receive the blessing.

We declare: "Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross we have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham, whom God blessed in all things."

We need to commit to a life of serving Jesus – allowing the Holy Spirit to fill us and teach and correct us. We need to commit to a family of believers and the discipleship journey, reading of the Word and prayer. If we don't the Bible warns that we will be in danger of coming under oppression again.

"When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first." (Luke 11: 24 – 26)

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Here is a sample prayer for breaking generational curses:

In the name of Jesus, I confess the sins and iniquities of my parents (name specific sins if known), grandparents (name specific sins if known), and all other ancestors.

In the name of Jesus, and by the power of His blood, I now renounce, break and sever all cords of iniquity and generational curses I have inherited from my parents, grandparents and all other ancestors and break and sever all unholy soul ties formed between myself and my parents, grandparents and all other ancestors.

In the name of Jesus, I now loose myself and my future generations from any bondages passed down to me from my ancestors and I command any evil spirits which have taken advantage of these cords of iniquity, generational curses and unholy soul ties to leave me now in the name of Jesus!

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SOUL TIES

What a soul tie is

The Bible speaks of what is today known as soul ties. In the Bible, it doesn't use the word soul tie, but it speaks of them when it talks about souls being knit together, becoming one flesh, etc. A soul tie can serve many functions, but in its simplest form, it ties two souls together in the spiritual realm.

A soul tie between married couples draws them together like magnets, while soul ties between fornicators can draw a beaten and abused woman to the man whom in the natural realm, she would hate and run from. Instead, she runs to him, even though he doesn't love her, and treats her badly.

In the demonic realm, unholy soul ties can serve as bridges between two people, through which demonic garbage passes through. Soul ties can be responsible for things such as allowing one person to manipulate and control another person. The person is unaware of what is going on, or knows what is going on, but for no real reason, allows it to continue.

Here are some quotes about soul ties:

"A soul tie is a phrase which some people use to refer to a spiritual connection between two people. In many cases, it is said to come into existence after two people have been physically intimate. In others, it is said to form after an intensely close spiritual or emotional relationship. Common examples of soul ties refer to those formed with partners from previous relationships. That's because this person had such a strong role in and influence on your life for such a long time that a deep bond or tie was formed. That bond may not have necessarily ended when the relationship did."

The source of this quote is a New Age website. Isn't it interesting that New Agers understand this principle, while a large part of the Body of Christ cannot be convinced.

"A soul tie is the "knitting together" of two souls that refers to a spiritual connection between them. A person will feel as if a special connection was formed with the other person that usually happens after sexual intercourse. The idea that intercourse creates such ties dates back to antiquity. Its roots are in the Christian tradition, where it is explained that when two people are physically intimate, their souls are intertwined, just as their bodies are, and become one soul. However, this bond often develops into an unhealthy relationship which often leads to addictive and violent behaviour."

The source of this quote is a website that shares a curious mixture of New Age and Christian beliefs. What they have wrong is that it's not only sexual intercourse that connects souls. Masturbation to pornography, the watching of pornography, sexual fantasies, sexualised conversations and other sexual practices will also form soul ties.

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A little bit of science

Let's talk hormones, as hormones are an integral part of human connection.

We are motivated by two powerful forces: avoiding pain and seeking reward. Four key chemicals in our brain shape how we feel and behave — they're behind our highs and lows. Understanding them is valuable. Mastering them is life changing.

E - Endorphins

Endorphins block pain and help us push through physical limits. We're built for endurance — to keep going even when we're exhausted. Think of it as our body's survival mechanism, originally designed to help us outrun predators. This is why breaking through the pain barrier during exercise feels so good.

D - Dopamine

Dopamine is our brain's reward chemical. It's released whenever we achieve something or feel satisfied. Ever added a nearly finished task to your to-do list just to cross it off? That little rush you feel is dopamine.

Cross something off your list = dopamine hit

Finish a workout = dopamine hit

Check your email or social media = dopamine hit

Complete a level in a game = dopamine hit

That last point matters. Dopamine can drive unproductive habits — like constantly checking our phones or watching pornography. Every notification or image gives us a small reward hit, which keeps us coming back. This is worth understanding as a parent: it's why kids are drawn to smartphones and why they get irritable after too much screen time. The dopamine loop can become addictive.

S - Serotonin

Serotonin is a mood-boosting chemical that also helps protect our mental health. It's released when we feel respected, valued, and appreciated by others.

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O = Oxytocin

Oxytocin is often called the "love hormone." It creates a sense of bonding and connection at a neurochemical level. It's released during physical touch, intimacy, and close social interaction — a hug, time with friends, or being part of a tight-knit community. It's also behind the powerful bond a mother feels when she holds her newborn for the first time. At its core, oxytocin drives our deep human need to belong.

God created us for healthy connection, even on cellular level, and Satan corrupts and destroys this by causing us to connect in ungodly, unhealthy and sinful ways.

Let's again turn to the Scriptures and look at what the Bible says...

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Thessalonians 5:23*

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. *Genesis 2:24*

and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' *Matthew 19: 5*

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 'So they are no longer two, but one flesh. *Mark 10:7, 8*

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SOUL BONDS

A soul bond is a spiritual and emotional attachment that creates a powerful adhesion, and/or enmeshment of the two people's psyche, essence (persona) and soul being glued together. This enmeshment can also occur between a person and a system (church, music band etc). A soul bond can occur through vows, kissing, tattoos, marriage, trauma, abuse, all sexual immorality and/or abuse, parental inversion and generational iniquity.

Parental inversion happens when a child becomes the parent of siblings, and caregiver to the parent. This can be because the parent is socially, emotionally or physically unable to take care of the children and one of them take over the role.

A Biblical example of a Godly soul bond is found in Genesis 2:24: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (NKJV)

Biblical examples of an ungodly soul bond is found in 1 Corinthians 6:16-17: "Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, 'The two will become one flesh.'" (ESV) and in Ephesians 5:31: Therefore, all sexual perversion outside of marriage causes defilement. (ESV)

Another example of the forming of a soul bond is through getting tattooed. A bond may form with the tattoo artist on account of the shedding of blood. People who get matching tattoos signifying their friendship and/or relational connection can be in danger of forming such a bond.

All godly soul ties and bonds can serve as bridges between people releasing blessing and kingdom inheritance. All ungodly soul ties and bonds can serve as bridges between people allowing demonic transferences and curses. To illustrate, imagine one person as an electrical plug and a different person as a socket. The plug gets plugged into a socket, creating an attachment and/or adhesive bond, allowing electrical energy to flow through the socket into the plug. Whatever is in the socket now has full access to the plug and the plug draws energy from the socket.

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THE FORMATION OF SOUL TIES

Here are some ways a soul tie can be formed:

Sexual relations:

Godly soul ties are formed when a couple are married and have intercourse. Ephesians 5:31 says: *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."* This Godly soul tie between a husband and the wife, that God intended them to have, is unbreakable by man (Read Mark 10:7-9)

However, when a person has sexual relations with a person outside of the marriage covenant, an ungodly soul tie is formed. 1 Corinthians 6:16 speaks to this: *"Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh".* This soul tie fragments the soul and is destructive. Imagine how scattered and fractured a person's soul becomes when this behaviour is repeated over and over again.

People who have many past relationships find it very difficult to 'bond' or be joined to anybody, because of this fragmentation. *Genesis 34:2-3* is another scriptural example of this: *"And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her. And his soul cleaved unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spoke kindly unto the damsel."*

Close relationships:

King David and Jonathan had a godly soul tie as a result of a godly friendship, as we read in *1 Samuel 18:1*, *"And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul"*. Ungodly soul ties can form from bad relationships in a similar way.

Idolizing people

Idolizing people can cause ungodly soul ties. For example, you can create a soul tie with a rock group by becoming obsessed with their music, or a movie star, or even a pastor or Christian leader. This explains the strong pull towards certain music, movies or books etc. that seems almost irresistible.

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Vows, commitments and agreements

Vows are known to bind the soul, and marriage itself consists of vows and binds the two people together. According to 2 Corinthians 6:14 we should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. It goes on to say: "For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?" Some synonyms for the word 'yoked' are connected, joined, coupled, linked, harnessed, united, combined, chained, and attached. This implies that contracts, vows and commitments that we make with other people will link, or bond us to them.

Breaking Soul Ties

If any sins were committed to cause this soul tie, repentance is needed. Fornication is perhaps one of the most common ways to create nasty soul ties but often shame and guilt will cause a person to hide the sin, rather than expose it.

If gifts were given by the other person in connection with the sin, or unholy relationship, such as rings, flowers, cards, underwear, etc. it should be discarded, or even burned, if it is appropriate. Such items symbolize the ungodly relationship and can hold a soul tie in place. It also acts as a point of contact, making it harder to sever the ties.

Any rash vows or commitments made, that played a part in forming the soul tie should be renounced and repented of and broken in Jesus' name. Vows like "I will love you forever", or "I could never love another man!" need to be renounced. They are spoken commitments that need to be undone verbally. As Proverbs 21:23 tells us, "Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity." The tongue has the ability to bring the soul great troubles and bondage.

If there is any unforgiveness or bitterness towards that person, it has to be acknowledged, repented of and forgiveness has to be offered sincerely, from the heart.

The next step is to renounce the soul tie. This is done verbally, for example, pray: "In Jesus' name, I now renounce any ungodly soul ties formed between myself and (insert the name) as a result of (name the sin - fornication, etc.)"

Break the soul tie in Jesus' name by praying something like this: Jesus, I ask that You sever and break the soul tie with (insert the person's name again) and burn it up so that it can never form again.

Continue by thanking Jesus for the finished work of the cross, His mercy and forgiveness and ask Him to wash you clean from all defilement. It is a good time to take communion, and to ask Holy Spirit to fill you again.

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THE FORMATION OF SOUL BONDS

Soul bonds are formed in a similar way as soul ties, but they are a deeper level of enmeshment. Imagine a soul tie as holding hands palm to palm. Using the same analogy, a soul bond can be described as holding hands with fingers interlaced. It's a firmer grip and a lot more intertwined.

First there's an attraction – the drawing towards someone or something through allurements and enticement.

Then connection is made through the forming of an official relationship. Linkage follows, and the two become united in purpose and intent. Now a soul tie is formed – there's an attachment by which two separate individuals are brought together and linked or yoked.

If this tie is strengthened further, a soul bond forms. The individuals are now fastened, joined and glued together.

SIGNS OF STRONG SOUL TIES AND BONDS

Here are a few ways to discern whether an ungodly soul tie or bond has formed with either another person, or with a system. A system can be any organisation they spend a lot of time in – a Christian fellowship, a school or university, a workplace or a club.

1. They have persistent, dominating or ruminating thoughts of a person or

system

These thoughts are manipulating and controlling your behaviour. The person feels that they need their approval, or they feel that they are being watched

2. They are consumed or obsessed with another person or system

The person is continuously looking for connection and scrolling through social media, photos etc., wondering what they are doing or who they are with. The person affected by the tie or bond uses their imagination to engage in fantasy scenarios and 'what if's' concerning the person they are bonded to.

3. They become like the person and copy their traits

Their mannerisms, the way they do ministry, talk, or dress is copied. It's like they carry a piece of that person within themselves.

4. Remaining in an abusive relationship with the person or system

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They become defensive about the person or system, they are afraid to say they were wrong, or they are in denial or excuse, rationalise or spiritualise the abuse. They find a strange comfort being a part of the system or being with the abusive person.

5. They have recurring dreams with the person in it, or they dream of working,

or ministering in the system you were a part of:

The person may be chasing them in the dream, demanding to be obeyed when they speak, or they may attempt to instil fear on them. The person having the dreams may feel like they are being controlled from within their mind.

6. They keep objects given to them by the person or system

Personal mementos and gifts, especially jewellery and cards, ordinations, certificates and other awards are kept and treasured.

DELIVERANCE PRAYERS

Through the years, as I taught on these topics, I was asked how to pray. Below are some sample deliverance and bondage breaking prayers.

If you're suffering from a deep bondage in these areas, it may be a good idea to have a strong fellow believer present. There is power in agreement and in case demons begin to manifest you will need support.

These are not formulas, but prayers crafted to get you started. It's not the specific and exact words that bring freedom, but the blood of Christ, and the power and authority that He has delegated to us.

Now is a good time to destroy or get rid of any physical gifts or other objects that could hold the soul tie together, such as a gift given in an adulterous relationship, etc.

Ties the Bind

Breaking soul ties

Heavenly Father, I confess and repent of the sin of _____ (name the sin which caused the evil soul tie, such as adultery or fornication), and I ask that you forgive me for this sin.

In the name of Jesus, and by the power of His blood, I now renounce, break and sever all unholy soul ties formed between _____ (name the person/s) and myself, through the sin of _____ (name the sin which caused the evil soul tie, such as adultery or fornication).

I now command any evil spirits which have taken advantage of this unholy soul tie to leave me now in the name of Jesus!

Renouncing ungodly vows

Heavenly Father, I repent and renounce the vow I made to _____ (name the demon or person, or even God, that you made the vow to) to perform _____ (describe what the vow entailed). I realize this was foolish and rash on my behalf, and I ask that you forgive me and release me from the bondage that this vow has brought me under.

In the name of Jesus, and by the power of His blood, I now renounce, break and nullify the vow to (person's name/organisation etc.) to perform _____, and I confess that I am released from this vow and its bondage in Jesus' name.

I now command any evil spirits which have taken advantage of this unholy vow to leave me now in the name of Jesus!

Ties the Bind

Renounce involvement with unhealthy (demonic) music

Heavenly Father, I confess that I used to listen to unhealthy demonic music. I ask that you forgive and cleanse me from this sin.

In the name of Jesus, and through the power of His blood, I now renounce, break and sever all soul ties that have been formed between myself and the unhealthy music (name specific songs and artists/groups if possible) I used to listen to and enjoy, as well as any soul ties formed between myself and the artists and groups (name them specifically if possible) and demonic influences that have produced these unhealthy songs and music.

In Jesus' name, I also renounce, break and nullify any curses that I may have come under as a result of listening to the unhealthy music I used to listen to and enjoy.

In the name of Jesus, I now command all evil spirits that have taken advantage of these soul ties I have just renounced to leave me. In the name of Jesus, I also renounce and command any evil spirits that have taken advantage of any curses that I have come under as a result of listening to unhealthy music to leave me now in Jesus' name! I also renounce and command any evil spirits that have entered me through my listening to this unhealthy music to leave me now in the name of Jesus'!

Ties the Bind

UNFORGIVENESS: SPIRITUAL POISON

Unforgiveness is the single most popular poison that the enemy uses against God's people, and it is one of the deadliest poisons a person can take spiritually. It is at the root of many problems we face, from mental health issues, depression, to health problems such as cancer and arthritis.

Two commandments given to us by God

Matthew 22:36-40, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Jesus gave us very important commandments to follow; one of them was to love one another, as He has loved us (John 15:12). Love is the exact opposite of unforgiveness, envy, jealousy, hate, pride and bitterness. You can't truly love somebody and hold bitterness or unforgiveness against them at the same time.

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

Ties the Bind

30 *"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.*

32 *"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

35 *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."* Matthew 18: 21 – 35

Our responsibility to forgive others

From Matthew 18: 21 – 35 we see that God sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins, so that we may be reconciled to Him, without spot or blemish. He asks that we give others the same forgiveness that paid for us.

Unforgiveness shows we don't really love Jesus

In John 15:12, Jesus commands us to love one another, as He has loved us. True love doesn't hold bitterness or unforgiveness against another person. If we are bitter or hold unforgiveness against somebody, then we don't love them as Christ loved us. Disobeying Jesus' commandments, prove we don't love Him, according to John 14:24, *" Anyone who does not love Me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.*

Unforgiveness prevents God from forgiving our sins

Matthew 6:15, *" But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

Unforgiveness opens us up to the tormentors

Look again at Matthew 18:32 – 35

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

In verse 22 of this chapter Jesus says to Peter, who asks Him how many times we should forgive someone for sinning against us, and He answers 77 times, before He goes on to tell the parable of the unmerciful servant. Forgiveness is not optional, but Christ in us empowers us to be able to forgive the unforgivable.

Ties the Bind

Unforgiveness can block God from answering our prayers

Mark 11:24, 25, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

John 15:5, 10 tells us that if we abide in Christ, we will produce much spiritual fruit, and the way that we abide in Christ is by keeping His commandments. Verse 12 tells us that His commandment is to love one another as He has loved us. Verse 7 tells us that if we abide in Him (by keeping His commandments), and His Word in us, we can ask for anything, and it will be given onto us!

The reason a lot of people's prayers go unanswered, is because they are not keeping the commandments that Jesus gave us; therefore, they aren't abiding in Christ's love, and if we aren't abiding in Christ's love, how can we expect Him to hear our prayers?

Unforgiveness can defile a person

Hebrews 12:15, "...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

Notice at the end of this portion of scripture it says, "many be defiled." This is a very common, if not one of the most common things that defile people. Many bondages can be shed when a person forgives those who have wronged him or her from the heart.

Unforgiveness can give Satan an advantage

2 Corinthians 2:10-11, "Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

Satan is called "the accuser of the brothers, according to Revelations 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brother has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. (ESV)

When we have unforgiveness in our hearts towards someone, we come into agreement with the accuser and we give him permission and access to people, and ourselves. Unforgiveness keep people on our hook, and instead of putting them on Jesus' hook, we become their judge and jury.

Ties the Bind

Unforgiveness can prevent someone from entering the Kingdom of God

According to the Bible, unforgiveness can stop someone from entering heaven because Jesus states that God's forgiveness of our sins is linked to our willingness to forgive others. Failing to forgive indicates a hard heart and rejection of God's commands, which is an act of rebellion.

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

How does this happen? The answer lies in verse 21 – 23

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

1 John 3:14,15 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

Unforgiveness can prevent us from being fruitful spiritually

John 15:5 tells us that if we abide in Christ, we will produce much spiritual fruit, and the way that we abide in Christ is by keeping His commandments (verse 10).

Verse 12 tells us that His commandment is that we love one another as He has loved us. Therefore, if we don't love one another, as He has loved us, then we do not abide in Him, and how are we supposed to produce much spiritual fruit if we don't abide in Him? According to verse 6, the branch that doesn't abide in the vine will be cast into the fire.

Ties the Bind

Unforgiveness can open us up to curses

When people in the Old Testament disobeyed God's commandments, it opened them up to curses (Deuteronomy 27:26). This is a spiritual principle that also applies to us. The Word of God is eternal, it does not change and therefore stating that something is "old covenantal" because it's an inconvenient truth, does not make it any less applicable to our lives.

Curses can cause mental and emotional problems (Deuteronomy 28:28), physical problems (Deuteronomy 28:35, 60, 61), financial problems (Deuteronomy 28:17, 38, 43), divorce and unfaithful spouse (Deuteronomy 28:30, 56), emotional stress (Deuteronomy 28:34), and childlessness (Lev 20:21). That's not all. Those curses can be handed down to your future generations (Exodus 20:5) and cause oppression and torment for future generations.

The blessings of forgiveness

There is a blessing that comes from the Lord when we are obedient. When we forgive those that harm us, it opens us up to God's forgiveness (Matthew 6:15), it puts us in a receiving position when we pray (Mark 11:24, 25), and it helps us to become spiritually fruitful (John 15:10, 12, 5).

We can have assurance that we have passed from spiritual death to being reconciled with our heavenly Father when we love each other (1 John 3:14). Keeping God's commandments and loving one another, prove that we love Jesus (John 14:21), and we abide in Christ's love (John 15:10). What a magnificent blessing forgiveness really is!

Ties the Bind

RECONCILIATION

Reconciling in a relationship is the process of restoring a broken or damaged connection, moving from conflict or separation back to trust, harmony, and mutual respect. It requires both partners to acknowledge past hurt, accept responsibility, and consciously work to repair the partnership, rather than just waiting for issues to vanish.

The Bible has something to say about this topic:

Continually pursue peace with everyone, and the sanctification without which no one will [ever] see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of God's grace; that no root of resentment springs up and causes trouble, and by it many be defiled

(Hebrews 12: 14, 15 AMP)

And also

If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

(Romans 12:18 AMP)

It is clear, if you look at these two scriptures that the Lord wants us to be at peace with one another, that we don't carry resentment and judgments toward each other and that we are obedient to forgive those who wrong us, but from the verse in Romans it's obvious that He honours free choice, as should we.

If a person is not repentant, teachable or able to be respectful of us, but chooses to be unkind, unloving and cause us continual and intentional harm we should forgive them, without reconciling and living in relationship. It's possible to forgive, so that we are in right standing with the Lord, without putting ourselves in harm's way by being in close contact with people who intent to hurt and abuse us.

The Lord hates abuse of His children and choosing strong boundaries with those who do not walk in righteousness and harmony with us and with the Lord is not wrong. Being in relationship with someone who is not contrite, able to make amends and work towards rebuilding respect and trust is not honouring the Lord, or ourselves.

Ties the Bind

THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

There are many demonic spirits, powers and strongmen that oppress, frustrate and influence us. Ephesians 6:12 confirm what we already experience daily:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

One of the most dangerous demonic influences is the religious spirit. It's difficult to detect in ourselves, and in the body of Christ. It's great at hiding behind a Christian mask, and it is behind the downfall of many individuals and fellowships.

What is the religious spirit and how will I recognize it?

The religious spirit is an ancient spirit, but not as ancient as the Ancient of Days. Some call it the Pharisee spirit, but it existed long before the Pharisees.

Counterfeits the Expression of God

Satan has a counterfeit for everything the Lord has because he is unable to create anything. Sometimes when the religious spirit begins to attack, you will know immediately that it is the religious spirit at work. Other times you are going to need someone who is grounded in the Word and who walks in greater discernment. This person will be able to look at it and say, "This is close to being like God, close to being like the Holy Spirit, close to being like Jesus - but there is *just enough difference* to realize that it is not God."

Denies God's Word and Character

The religious spirit wants you to question, doubt and deny the Word of God. Remember Adam and Eve? The first thing Satan asked Eve was "did God really say...?" He is still using exactly the same tactic to tempt us into disobedience to God's word.

Read Genesis 3: 1 -5 to remind yourself of the story.

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The word "Deny" is defined as "to state that something declared or believed to be true is not true; to refuse to recognize or acknowledge; to repudiate - reject as having no authority or binding force."

The religious spirit would like you to believe that what God said yesterday has no authority or binding force for today. This is a lie straight from the pit of hell. God's Word will accomplish that which it says it will do, and it will not return void. His Word stands forever. (see Isaiah 40:8; 55:11).

Perhaps you have received a prophetic word that has yet to be fulfilled. This spirit puts doubt in your mind as to whether God really spoke to you. If it can get you to deny one prophetic word, then it may even get you to deny all the prophetic words spoken over your life. Sometimes we believe in our heads, what God says, but when it comes right down to our hearts, we don't believe Him.

Have you ever whined before the Lord and said, "I am all alone. No one cares about me. No one even knows I am here"? The religious spirit will have you think that God has abandoned you or that He doesn't even know your name or that He may know your name, but He doesn't care about you anymore, since He has left you all alone to fend for yourself. But don't be deceived. This is *not* God's character. God does *not* do or say things like this.

Shield your soul from the enemy's lies by choosing to believe what you say you believe. Counter every lie of the enemy with truth. Search the Scriptures for what God has to say concerning the lie. For example, take the lie "God has abandoned me." God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will never abandon you. I am with you *always*" (see Joshua 1:5; Deuteronomy 4:31; Matthew 28:20).

Acknowledge God's Word as true and affirm that God is bound by His Word to honour His Word. Set yourself in agreement with His Word. And when in doubt, call on Jesus - He is the truth (see John 14:6).

Upholds Tradition over Truth

Those bound by the spirit of religion choose to uphold tradition rather than truth. They feel so comfortable in the way things have always been in their personal lives or in the fellowships they attend, that they are not open to the new things God is doing. God says, "Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it?" (Isaiah 43:19, *NASB*).

If you respond, "No, I don't want something new; I like the old way," or "this is how we have always done it", then you may be bound by the religious spirit. You pray for God to take you higher, but as soon as He begins, you cry out, "I want to go back!" This is the spirit of religion, which causes you to honour tradition more than you honour God and His Word and which keeps you from going forward with the Lord.

Validates Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy is the act of pretending to have higher standards or beliefs than one actually practices. It is commonly understood as saying one thing while doing another.

Ties the Bind

The religious spirit deceives you into thinking that the outward details of your behavior are what counts, not what is deep in your heart. It makes you a hypocrite for example, being so godly and pious in a prayer meeting, but yelling at your family, or being rude and ill-mannered when you are in the supermarket or bad-tempered at work, yet you are loving and kind to everyone at church.

Appeals to Your Flesh

The religious spirit was behind the devil when he appeared to Jesus in the desert and tried to get Jesus to worship him (see Luke 4:5-7).

This spirit will offer you things that appeal to your pride and self-worth and tempt you to compromise. It will cause you to find ways to gratify your flesh, even to the point of misquoting or using the Bible to justify ungodly behaviour, by quoting scriptures out of context.

Let's look at just a few of its tactics

The religious spirit will cause you to walk in pride rather than in humility. Humility is acknowledging that you're able to do what you do, only because God empowers, anoints and calls you. However, many of us have been taught that when we say good things about ourselves, it's prideful. However, when you say the good things about yourself that God says about you, it's not pride - it's humility. True, godly humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less - in other words, preferring others above yourself.

You need to agree with God. Perhaps the Lord has been telling you that you are a mighty child of God. If your response is, "Oh no, Lord not me!" it may sound like humility, but actually it's pride. In reality, you are saying that you know more than God does in this particular situation. When you begin to deny or speak against what God says about you, it's as though you were saying that God doesn't really know who you are. This is the religious spirit putting thoughts in your mind. God not only know who you are, but He also knows what He wants you to be in the future. Start agreeing with what God says about you, and you will defeat the religious spirit.

The spirit of religion justifies itself.

Do you ever justify your wrong behavior by blaming someone who has hurt you or ignored you or mistreated you? When you justify your sin like that, you're trying to make yourself look good, and it becomes another form of pride.

When you don't admit that you are wrong and you blame others for your sin, you are yielding to the religious spirit. You may find yourself saying, "The reason I hurt you was because you spoke harshly to me" or "The reason I'm so angry is because you hurt me." God says, "Be angry but do not sin" (Ephesians 4:26). The religious spirit tries to get us to be angry, and then to go on and sin by not forgiving as we should.

Ties the Bind

The spirit of religion is critical.

Being critical is another indication of religious pride. Do you find yourself looking around during church and thinking, "I wish they wouldn't sing this emotional song" or "people need to sit down" or "this dancing during worship is distracting" or something like that? The spirit of religion strives to get you to put yourself and your needs and preferences above others, so that you will believe that you are holier or more spiritual than they.

When you find yourself criticizing someone else's actions or responses or motives, you may be under the influence of the religious spirit. This is the same spirit that operated in the Pharisees, when they questioned Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. They wrongly judged His heart and actions (see Matthew 12:10-13).

No Room for Grace

Under the influence of the religious spirit, the Pharisees judged others by the law. There was no room for grace or for mistakes.

Some people believe that they have sinned so greatly that God cannot possibly forgive them for their sin. Divorcees, women who have had abortions, and people who have committed sexual sins or have addiction issues often live with tremendous guilt and shame. They may believe that God can forgive them, but they cannot forgive themselves. They do not allow grace to operate in their lives in order to become free, because the religious spirit fills their minds with lies like they are too shameful to be forgiven or they are too shameful to be used by God. It keeps reminding them of their mistakes, and it will not let them experience God's grace. If you have not received God's forgiveness for a sin in your life, then the religious spirit may well be holding you back.

Corrie ten Boom is known to have said, "It's a poor soldier indeed who does not recognize the enemy." Become one of God's skilled soldiers who can identify this spirit's tactics, including how it might affect you. After you grasp this and understand how your enemy strives to hold you back, you then can dismantle its plan of attack.

Ties the Bind

HOW THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT ATTACKS

Two forms of attack that the spirit of religion uses in order to accomplish its plan to hold you back are bringing death and stealing from you.

Bringing Death

Bringing death is one of the main forms of attack that the religious spirit uses. Why? It hates Jesus - the way, the truth, and the life (see John 14:6).

The spirit of religion will attempt to bring death to your hopes, dreams, your vision and your call. This happens when you get to the point when you say, "I don't know if it even matters that I am here. Do I make a difference?" You do make a difference. God has a call for every one of us. He has a purpose, plan and destiny for your life. His desire is for you to fulfill your destiny. He will not confuse you when you get to a crossroads in your life and you need to know which way to go. He is standing there saying, "This is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21).

In addition, the religious spirit will endeavor to bring death to relationships. It causes you to close your heart and to keep you from reconciling. It will drive you to seek revenge or retaliation. Some Christians get in arguments with others and then refuse to speak to them again.

Choose to walk in a lifestyle of forgiveness. If you do, you nullify the religious spirit's opportunity to bring death to relationships. Be quick to repent, quick to forgive and quick to reconcile. Keep the enemy from getting a foothold in your soul. Give up the right to retaliate or hold a grudge. Extend grace to others and to yourself as well.

Stealing from You

Another form of attack that the religious spirit often uses is stealing. Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10, *NIV*).

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The religious spirit purposes to steal your joy. In doing so, it actually steals your strength (see Nehemiah 8:10). Once your joy is taken from you, your strength is also taken. When your strength is stolen, it becomes more difficult to resist demonic attacks.

As your joy is stolen, your faith is also diminished. If you don't see a word or a promise for you come to fruition, you can find yourself thinking, *why should I believe this anymore? It's just too hard.* The religious spirit attempts to discourage you - to keep you from agreeing with what God says about you.

Maintain your joy and build your faith by speaking God's promises. As you do this, your faith increases (see Romans 10:17). As your faith increases, so does your joy and your strength.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR SOUL

Jesus set a precedent for successfully protecting our souls from the attacks of the religious spirit. In Luke 4, verses 4, 8, and 12, Jesus directly confronted Satan by boldly declaring the truth of the Word. He countered every attack with confidence in God's character and His Word. As a result, Satan departed from Him.

You, too, can resist the religious spirit with the powerful weapon of the Word. Learn from Jesus. Tune your will to God's will and declare the truth of God's Word over your life. Remind your enemy of its defeat by saying what God says: "The devil will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Put God First

The war in the heavens is over who will be worshipped. One way Satan receives worship is when the religious spirit operates in your life. This is done when you put people, situations, agendas, things or yourself above God. The first commandment says, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). Open your mouth and declare to the heavenly hosts that you will serve no other gods and that you will have no other master but Jesus. Protect your soul by deciding to put God first in every area of your life.

The religious spirit subtly convinces you that other things are more important than being where God has called you to be, and it hinders you from being in the right place at the right time. You may erroneously believe that you don't need to be at church for the worship time, but only for the pastor's sermon. Deciding that worship isn't important indicates that your relationship with God isn't important. Worship prepares your heart for God to speak to you through the message.

While you are in God's presence, He stokes the flame of love that burns within you. Passion rises from intimate worship. Shield your soul from the religious spirit by capturing moments of worship to the highest God. When God is first in your life, you can't help but be passionate.

Ties the Bind

God's desire is for you to be passionate (see Romans 12:10-11), while at the same time the religious spirit strives to steal your passion. It attempts to quench the fire of the Holy Spirit by getting you to cover up or diminish your love for the Lord. Moses had the same problem. His face glowed after being in God's presence. The children of Israel were afraid to come close to him, so he put a veil over his face (see Exodus 34:29-35).

When your passion is stirred up, people may respond like Moses' followers: "Why are you so intense? What happened to you? Put a lid on it." Your passion will make others uncomfortable, but do not yield. If the enemy can steal your passion, then he will be able to steal the revival that God is bringing into your life.

When passion begins to wane, you start believing that God doesn't need or want to use you anymore. As people grow older, they often think that they have done everything, so they might as well kick back and relax. Don't buy into this lie - be zealous and passionate. Choose to leave this life in a blaze of glory, filled with passion. Don't sit in your rocking chair and let the world pass you by.

Die Daily

In order to put God first, you must make it a practice to die daily. Wake up every morning and have a funeral - yours!

Paul set the example for us (see I Corinthians 15:31). Choose to die to your flesh, your hopes, your plans, your emotions, your ways, your agenda - the list goes on. Die to all of you, but don't stay dead. Allow God to raise you with new life in Christ. Choose His ways, His plans, His agenda, His will, His desires and His purposes. Choose all of God and none of you.

Guard your soul from the religious spirit by choosing to die daily. When you have a really bad day, stop your grumbling and complaining. Remember, it's your flesh, your old sin nature that is rising up again. Move out of your flesh and walk in the Spirit. Choose to die one more time and keep moving into your destiny.

Get Dressed

Take time to put on your spiritual clothing. The spirit of religion prefers you to wear garments of bitterness, anger, pity, hatred, unforgiveness, disunity and more. But God, the Designer, has made designer clothing for you to wear instead.

Each piece represents what He wants to do in and through you. Protect your soul from the religious spirit by putting on this designer wardrobe:

Ties the Bind

- The Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14)
- A new self (Colossians 3:10)
- A garment of praise (Isaiah 61:3)
- Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love (Colossians 3: 12 - 14)
- Faith, love and the hope of salvation (I Thessalonians 5:8) The armor of light (Romans 13:12)
- The full armour of God (Ephesians 6:13-17)



Ties the Bind

Walk in Truth

The spirit of religion quotes the Word of God out of context. Though it knows what the truth is, it uses this truth to deceive and bring death. It is better to live in the tree of life rather than in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9). This way you avoid using the Word of God to wound people or to make a point. You need to

know God's Word, His heart, and His character. Ask yourself, "What would God say?" Then say what He would say and do what He tells you to do. Remember, God will not tell you to do something contrary to His Word.

The religious spirit may convince you that God doesn't speak to you anymore - or that He has never spoken to you. Are you a child of God? If so, Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them" (John 10:27). You *can* hear God's voice.

As the religious spirit attacks your mind, choose to "[take] every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5, *NASB*). You have the mind of Christ, so begin to think as God designed you to think (I Corinthians 2:16). Set your faith to believe that the Word of God has transforming power and renew your mind (Romans 12:2). Guard your soul by setting your will to seek truth, believe truth, walk in truth and speak truth. These actions will silence the voice of the enemy in your mind.

Walk in Your Authority

God has not just given you authority. He has given you His authority. But the religious spirit can cause you to abdicate your authority. When you relinquish your position of authority, you open the door for the enemy to come in and attack you and your family. You are not some weak people whom God put on the earth. God says you will possess the gates of your enemies (Genesis 22:17). Purpose to take back what you have relinquished, what you gave up to the enemy. Rise up and be part of the mighty army that God has called, destined and ordained for you to be part of.

Shield your soul by wearing the mantle He has given you and by walking with confidence in your authority.

Walk in the Fullness of the Spirit

Finally, walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Honour God more than you honour people or tradition. Fear God more than you fear people, and you will no longer be performance oriented, no longer a people pleaser, no longer caring about

what others think. Resist the enemy. Take time to sit before the Lord. Communicate with Him. Find out who God really is, what He thinks and what He says. Choose to apply these truths to your life every day. Discover your gifts and then embrace them into your life. As you continue to put these steps into practice, you'll become free from the religious spirit and be able to stay free.

In short: It's a deceptive spirit that stops the flow of the Holy Spirit, in individuals and in the Church. It's having a form of religion of religion but denying the Spirit.

Ties the Bind

- It puts an emphasis on doing (works)
- It causes you to be proud, arrogant, and self-righteous
- It will entice you to criticize and slanders
- It blocks the giving and receiving of love and forgiveness
- It causes you to be unteachable, and to resist correction
- It will do anything to look good, and it covers sin
- It causes you to live by hypocritical rules
- It will make you cynical, lacking in joy
- It loves formulas
- It rejects the move of God
- Under its influence worship and prayer is just a performance
- It causes you to compromise with the world
- It's prideful, and isolates people
- It is generational, false teaching, not submitting to the Holy Spirit, moves in the flesh, manifests in soul ties
- It will silence your voice
- It's aim is to convince you of God's silence, displeasure or judgment
- It causes you to doubt God's calling on your life
- It causes you to have a perfectionist mentality
- It causes approval-seeking service
- Empowers control and manipulation
- Under its influence you operate with no accountability, counsel, and oversight
- It causes you to fear man

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Epilogue: Walk in What You Have Received

You have come a long way.

If you have worked through this material prayerfully and honestly — if you have recognized the enemy's footholds, repented of sin, renounced curses, broken ungodly soul-ties, forgiven those who wounded you, and stood against the deception of the religious spirit — then something has shifted in the spiritual realm. Do not dismiss what God has done. Do not minimize it. Do not walk out the door and hand it back.

Jesus gave us a sobering warning in Luke 11. When an impure spirit leaves a person, it does not surrender quietly — it looks for a way back. If it finds the house "swept clean and put in order" but empty, it returns with seven spirits more wicked than itself. Freedom, if it is to last, must be filled. The space the enemy once occupied must be occupied by something greater.

That something — that Someone — is the Holy Spirit.

Freedom is not the finish line. It is the starting line. From this point forward, you are called to walk in what you have received. That means committing to a life of obedience to God's voice. It means staying rooted in a local church family where you can be known, loved, corrected and disciplined. It means daily surrender — waking up each morning and choosing His agenda over your own. It means picking up the Word not as a religious duty but as bread for your hungry soul.

The enemy will not stop his attacks simply because you have been set free. He is strategic, persistent and patient. But here is what has changed: you now know who you are. You know the authority you carry in the name of Jesus. You know that the same power that raised Christ from the dead lives inside you (Romans 8:11). You know how to recognize deception, how to stand against curses, how to guard your soul, and how to walk in the fullness of the Spirit.

The four R's are not a one-time formula — they are a lifestyle. Recognize. Repent. Renounce. Resist. When the enemy presses in again — and he will try — you know what to do. Submit to God. Resist the devil. He will flee.

Hold fast to the blessing of Abraham that is yours in Christ. Walk out your healing. Let the glory light of Jesus continue to illuminate the corners of your soul. Choose forgiveness every single day — not because it is easy, but because you have been forgiven much. Guard against the religious spirit that would dress your prison bars in respectability and call them holiness.

You were not saved to survive. You were saved to reign. Go and walk in it.

"Behold, I give to you authority over all the power of the enemy." Luke 10:19