

SET THE SPIRITUAL HOSTAGES FREE

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested,
that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

—I John 3:8

Multitudes of people in this world are held hostage in their minds by the devil. They are incarcerated, locked up, and caged in their minds and emotions, held like slaves, prisoners, or detainees who are under arrest and live at the mercy of their conqueror.

I couldn't begin to count the people I've ministered to in Life Enrichment over the years who fit that description. Although they belong to Jesus and legally have every right to freedom, they remain in spiritual bondage, at least in some measure, in certain areas of their lives. Whether they persisted in a particular sin or failed to do something they should have done (such as read the Word, pray, or stay in fellowship with other saints) their minds were pried open wide enough for Satan to find an inroad and take that part of their minds captive.

Most of the body of Christ doesn't realize that Satan is a defeated foe. The first prophecy given was Gen. 3:15 says the seed of woman would bruise the head of the serpent. Gal. 3:16 identifies Jesus as being that seed that bruised Satan's head. When the Word said He bruised his head it was a governmental term. He bruised his headship. In other words what Satan took from man was headship. What Jesus took back from Satan was headship. At the cross something marvelous happened. Satan was reduced back to where he was in the Garden of Eden. Over covenant elect people of God (who know their rights and are walking in right relationship) Satan has no power. He has no dominion. He can strike you but he cannot have dominion. But he can have dominion over the world, lost people and rebellious Christians. Eph. 2:2 Says Satan is the prince is the sons of disobedience. When we are in rebellion we are placing ourselves under Satan's domain in certain areas. To walk in victory we need to walk in Jesus' name, His nature, and His character.

Most Christians don't know that Satan is not a god and he has no kingdom. He was defeated on the cross and stripped of his power. He operates primarily through the souls of men. Look around you at how much influence is being demonstrated by Satan in every area of society such as schools, every part of government and even many churches. And many of the people in these fields are supposedly committed Christians. Isn't that sad.

You see, the mind is the primary area Satan seeks to attack. He knows that once he succeeds in planting a stronghold of deception in some area of a person's mind, from that lofty position he can then begin to control and manipulate that person. The Bible calls this kind of deception in the mind a stronghold (II Cor. 10:4) Once a lie is planted in someone's head, it is hard to remove.

Now lets look at I John 3:8 again. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil". This tells us that when Jesus Christ came into the world, He came to untie and unloose Satan's binding powers over us. His objective was to disentangle us from Satan's control; to unfasten us from the demonic shackles that held us captive and to unravel the chains Satan used to keep us in his grip. In closing I am giving you some scriptures for you to check out.

Luke 10:19

Matt. 16:19

John 14:12-14

Heb. 2:14-15

II Cor. 10:3-5

Eph. 6:10-12