

# The Liberating Secret Newsletter

October 2008

Volume 46

Called to bring:  
**The Whole Gospel, to the Whole man, to the Whole World.**  
(All of Christ in, and manifesting as, all of redeemed humanity)

You may have seen on TV that Louisville, Ky. hosted a golf tournament called, The Riders Cup. It took place about 3 miles from our house. The day before the tournament began, Louisville suffered a power outage that darkened 300,000 homes. We all wondered if the golf course would be damaged, but thank goodness it wasn't. The culprit was "Ike", can you believe that he hit us too. Thankfully, not as severe as Texas, but it was a lot of wind for us. They said that it was hurricane wind ranging from 75 to 80 miles per hour. Needless to say, our internet servers went down with the lights and have been off. So, no e-mailing for me. Wow, I didn't realize how much I used my computer. Just today, we finally got them back on. It has been nine days without lights. Daunting, to say the least. Thankfully, we have Scott, the electrician, so he knew how to "jerry rig" things so all went well for us. But we can only imagine how bad it must be for the folks in Texas. Let us all pray for those precious folks.

I had the privilege of conducting an hour talk at a women's brunch at Green Castle Baptist Church last Saturday Sept. 13 here in Louisville. The response was so good, that I donated a case of my book, *The Treasures of Darkness*, to them. We will have to follow up with this precious church when we get back home in November.

Our **tour** through Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina starts September 25. Pray for us, and if you want to plug up with us on any part of this tour, please contact Margaret Lester at [Marlester@comcast.net](mailto:Marlester@comcast.net)

Here is our **SCHEDULE**

*Friday, Sept. 26, 2008*  
Vern and Linda Berryhill  
4579 Miller Court

Granite Falls, NC 28630

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008**

Marian Myers  
1229 Knollwood Place  
Martinsville, VA 24112

Margaret E. Lester  
1509 Mulberry Road  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008**

Martinsville First Baptist Church Chapel 9:45 a.m.

Mary Enochs, P.O. Box 12084  
Lynchburg, VA 24506 434-660-6648  
Leawood Baptist Church 6:00 p.m.  
345 Munford St.  
Lynchburg, VA 24501

**Tues. Sept. 30, 2008**

Dutch Inn Restaurant 9:30 – 3:00 Collinsville, Va

**Wed. Oct. 1, 2008**

Visit with folks in Winston Salem and Greensboro, NC

**Fri. Oct. 3, 2008** drive to Raleigh

Paul Chapman, Morrisville,  
Henni Corbin,  
Helen Cooper, 1608 Sunrise Rd, Cary, NC 27513

**Saturday Oct. 4, 2008**

Mary Ann Hammersla  
Darian White  
Pat Smith  
Cheryl Humphrey, 605 Blackshoals Dr. Cary, NC 27511

**Sun, Oct. 5, 2008**

Louis Tucker, Concord, NC

**Monday, Oct 6, 2008**

Charlotte, NC, Billy Graham recording at studio

**Tues, Oct. 7, Wilmington, NC**

Marion and Gray Dixon  
2303 New Orleans Pl.  
Wilmington, NC 28403

**Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008**

Morton W. Lester  
7292 Nursery Road  
Ocean Beach NC 28469  
**Margaret's cell 276- 252-4839**

**Oct. 10, 2008 Friday**

140 Atlantic AVE.  
Pawleys Island Women's retreat. SC 29585  
**Jenny's cell 843-816-1659**

Is life really a bed of roses??



This rose collage comes from the garden of our good friend Barbara Rogerson who lives in Romford, England. Visit her blog site and be totally inspired.

<http://www.ramblingsfromanenglishgarden.blogspot.com/>

**Live Internet Sunday School: Sign up now!**

***Global Sunday School*** This study now in progress is a verse by verse study of Galatians **live with Brian Coatney**. The method will be texting style participation for those who sign up and receive a logon. This is a discussion class for people I don't already know, where I will guide with comments on Galatians, and class members can share insights all throughout the 75 minute class that will take place from 2:00-3:15 GMT each Sunday. Your assigned logon will ensure privacy, and classes will not be archived for public access. This is a live class for enjoying a time of fellowship and insight in the moment. Later, we can add in audio or video components, but the idea now is to get going. When class size reaches 10-12, class members will talk about how to divide into two classes. Watch the web site for details on when we will be set up to go. For more information please contact Brian Coatney at: [coatneys@newwavecomm.net](mailto:coatneys@newwavecomm.net)

*It would be great if any of our old timers would help to encourage new folks to join this class, since the class is only designed to facilitate new people.*

### **Comments about the global Sunday School class!**

The chat room is fun. I've had one lady, Karen Norris from Knoxville, since near the beginning, and Candy Reiger joined us yesterday for a fun and lively class In Gal 4..

Two others have enrolled, but only one of them has logged in for a class (Beth Tobye from Morganfield KY). It occurred to me others might like to host a class. The "competition" doesn't bother me if anyone wants to jump in with the concept.

Love,  
B

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Would you like **radio in your area?** Please contact **Margaret Lester** at [marlester@comcast.net](mailto:marlester@comcast.net) for more information.

Please send me the news in your area to be posted in this Newsletter.  
[sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org](mailto:sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org)

**Want a good weather [map](#)?**

**Part one of Ron's article was in the August Newsletter, check the archives.**

## Driving Out Canaan - Part Two

Posted by Ron Block

[www.rabbitroom.com](http://www.rabbitroom.com)

Continuing our espionage through Canaan.

I found that **Canaan** itself meant "lowland," from a root word meaning "to be humbled, subdued, be low, be under, brought into subjection." Our bondages to sin, subjections to Satan.

**Amorite:** "a sayer" probably from amar, "to say, speak, utter, to think, to command, to promise, to intend." Amorites were apparently the greatest and most powerful of all the nations of Canaan. The false agreements we make with the Liar are powerful. These false words we speak, these identity statements about ourselves, are the greatest and most powerful of all the soulish "tribes" in the promised land of our soul/body. These lies we believe can be used in a wider sense to include all these inhabitants of our inner landscape, because the lies are where the sin tribes get their life. The cure: to recognize God's truth, to speak it out and faith in Him- to make our agreements only with God and His Word.

**Hittite** - "fear, "terror." Our fears. These are killed off by "being of good courage" and trading fear for faith.

**Perizzite** - "belonging to a village." From a root meaning to separate, i.e., decide. Used as "a leader, an officer over soldiers" (Gesenius' Lexicon). This is our tribe or mob mentality. Our false dependence on others decides a lot in our lives. It becomes our leader, our captain. This mentality has to be slain and Jesus made the captain, the center of our dependence; we are dependent by God's design, and if we don't make Christ the Source from which we draw everything, we will find false sources to feed our need for dependence.

**Hivite** - "town, village dwellers" from the root word "chavvah", Eve, "life" or "living." The dependence on others is false life. False life has to be replaced with true life. For the believer this means recognizing and affirming Christ as our life, our breath. It means recognizing that if we have Christ, we have all the love and approval we're ever going to need. Any other source of security will fluctuate with our circumstances.

**Jebusite**, from Jebus, "a place trodden down, as a threshing floor" from a root meaning "to tread down, reject, trample down." "To tread with the feet, trample on, as a thing neglected and despised" (Gesenius' Lexicon). Jebus was an ancient name of Jerusalem, used in the time of the Canaanites. The Jebusites inhabited Jebus and its neighboring mountains. Where we've been beat up in life, trodden down, rejected. This becomes the stronghold, the mother-city of the mountains. This rejection becomes the soil for unbelief. I had a lot of these pernicious idol worshipers

planted early on in my Land, and just in this past year the last remnants of Jebusites (as far as I can see) have had their pathetic, whiny butts kicked. These sin-tribes are energized and operated by the Screwtape paradigm. Now, don't get me wrong - I'm not blaming the devil for

everything. We have a responsibility. But our responsibility is faith; I'm not responsible for what the devil throws into my head, but I do choose what to do with those thoughts. The only way to spot the counterfeit "I," the masquerade Satan puts on to get a grip on me, is to be so familiar with the real "I" in Christ that the devilry is obvious. Now, if you are a maturing saint, see if this sounds familiar in light of your long experience with God.

The LORD says in Ex. 23:27-22,

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

God is the destroyer of sin; he makes sin run from us and drives it out. He does it little by little so Pride does not take over our inner landscape. Little by little he sanctifies each part of us until we are using each part of our soul/body in worship and love and gratefulness to God. He sets the bounds where Abraham's feet walked, as Jesus, our progenitor defined our inner promised land by walking the landscape of His humanity in total freedom. Jesus Christ Himself, indwelling us as the inner Fiery Cloud that goes before us, is the one who will deliver these inhabitants of the soul/body into our hands: our besetting sins and false slaveries, the lies we have believed, our fears, our dependence on others that gives us a false sense of life, security, worth, and our rejection. We are to make no covenant with any of these usurpers of our Land, nor with their gods. If we serve their false gods, it will be a snare to us. We will not have the abundant life that God desires. "If you do not believe, surely you shall not be established."

So on we go, like Caleb, like Joshua, into the Land. And we overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our Testimony. We died in Christ and rose again; we are new creations, and now we subdue all these inhabitants of our inner landscape by the power of the resurrected Christ within us, our Captain who leads us in battle, the Ark of the Covenant leading the way. In Part Three we'll go further into the Land and see how this works out in practice.

**Check out this video from the 700 club. Have you ever heard of "KORN". It's a heavy metal rock band. This is a great testimony about it's X leader, Brian Welch.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AopP1DEazCU&feature=related>

## Quotes

It does seem that man with his limited wisdom is intent upon filling the world with his thoughts on divine things. All this knowledge is a tower of Babel, that seems 'to hide its head in the clouds, but as to its reaching of heaven, it is no nearer to that, than the earth on which it stands. It is thus with all the buildings of man's wisdom and natural abilities in the things of salvation; he may take the logic of Aristotle, add to that the rhetoric of Tully, and then ascend as high as he can on the ladder of poetic imagination, yet no more is done to the reviving the lost life of God in his soul, than by a tower of brick and mortar to reach heaven' (William Law).

"Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet offers the heel that crushes it."

**Kierkegaard** talks of being a Knight of resignation as opposed to a Knight of faith. To all appearances, the Knight of resignation looks like the ideal Christian (and, in fact, is in a valid first step) by his acceptance of the situation "as is." But the Knight of faith can rise up and receive back his Isaac even as he is offering him up. It is that unique sense of expectancy (though paradoxically thrown into an absurdity of faith which follows the path of loss, yet knowing it will never extinguish our real heart's desire) that keeps the man of God *proving* the heart of God, and not merely being loyal to it. Soren Kierkegaard

"The **adventure of adversity** when seen in its true perspective, it is found to be the doorway into God's most transcendent secret--that adversities and sufferings, which in their origin are the effects of sin and instruments of the devil, in the grasp of faith become REDEMPTIVE. They are transfigured from the realm of merely something to be endured as an opposition of Satan, to something to be used to conquer their author and redeem his victims. Faith in times of adversity makes the serpent swallow itself! Once again the supreme proof of this is that when Satan made his fiercest attack in history on the person of Christ, God used that attack through the faith and endurance of the Sufferer, to bring about the world's salvation. God uses evil to bring about good." Norman P. Grubb



## Letters



2008/8/21 Paramsothy Vijayan  
Dear Sylvia

I came to know Norman Grubb as a student in Edinburgh Scotland in 1980. Over the years I have been reading his books and it is only recently that I have begun to understand his teaching of the liberating secret. I heard of your website and glad to find Norman's messages.

Praise God for keeping his teaching alive.

I wish to purchase the following products. Could you please let me know total cost including postage to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dear Sylvia

Vivien (spouse) and I were so much blessed by your books. Many things we could not understand in Norman's book was so clearly explained in your books. Your book as been the center of our conversation since we received them. We just do not know how to thank you for it helped us handle some of our problems. It gave us boldness to see thru situations and also helped us to divide soul and spirit. Many questions I had for years were answered in your book. I just do not know how to tell you how much we were blessed by your gift. We hope to return your kindness one day. The Treasures of Darkness is the best book I have read for a long time. In my opinion the book should become the basic text for teaching Union Life. IT IS A CLASSIC.

Vivien and I are planning a trip to the USA next year to attend the September conference at Louisville. We are unable to make it this year due to other matters. We hope we will be able to see you. We now hear your message thru your TV program.

Thanks a million - are you writing any other books? - we would like to purchase them.  
Regards

Vivien & Vijay  
Kuala Lumpur  
MALAYSIA

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Sir I am Pastor Emmanuel I am living in Pakistan and I am doing the work for God Street evangelism and I want to run a Christian Channel here in my community where nearly 50,000 people are willing to see more Christian channel because there are already Christian channels are running (Daystar channel, TBN, God channel etc) and I want to run your channel in my community. I hope that you will reply to me for the glory of God.

God bless you.  
Regards  
Pastor Emmanuel  
Greetings in Jesus name.

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August 31, 2008

*My Precious Grace and Larry,*

*I talked with Grace about what to give you for a wedding gift. I told her of my idea of giving you from my resources a Treasure of Foundations of Faith in Christ Jesus...thus the "Treasure Box".*

*In this box lies gems of all kinds... the kind that give Life, strength to the weary, courage, hope, Joy, and the path of LOVE...*

*Each of the authors within have meant so much to me on my journey here on earth... They have shown me who I truly am...a child of our Father God, the bride of Christ, personally and collectively, and the teacher, Holy Spirit who continues to reveal the mind of God IN me... And, He desires to do the same IN you... for we truly are the ambassadors of another Kingdom...the one that is eternal and never rots or changes...but continues in LOVE to bring into fellowship His children who are lost or those who have come to Jesus, but feel so apart from Him... YOU ARE NOT apart from Him. This is what this Treasure Box is for..*

*These books God gave me over time... like Watchman Nee, T. Austin Sparks, DeVern Fromke...these were what I chewed on for a long time...then came along Norman Grubb, Jessie Penn-Lewis, Hannah Whithall Smith. Then those folks I know well...Dan Stone, Sylvia Pearce, and Steve Pettit...*

*God picked the books He wanted me to give you...a few are more theological than others...but when you need Holy Spirit to talk to you...and you need people who have lived in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century...here they are and of course there are many other publications by these people...*

*One thing they have in common: the building up of the universal body of Christ to the Fullness Paul speaks of in his letters and what John gave in his epistles... Christ, OUR LIFE...*

*I love you and I bless your union in Christ Jesus, our Lord...May you know that He is Able in ALL situations...and He does make straight your path when it seems crooked...and He LOVES you more than any words could express.... God is so glad you two are together...as am I..*

*Forever together, AJ*

Check out **Ron Block's** article named: [Sin-consciousness—Christ Abiding](#) .

Remember Pawley's Island Retreat, call Jenny if you want to come, there is still room for you.

Is Pawleys Island Women's Retreat calling you???

## A Time to Uncover SECRETS

(that our Father wants us to know)

(Come join us as we reveal the "secret" of living in this world)

With

SYLVIA PEARCE---FRAN "LOVE" GILES

JENNY FIENNING---MARGARET LESTER

We hear all the time, come here He is here...or read this book and you will know how to pray, fast, forgive, and love...

Here at Pawleys we explore and rejoice in our uniqueness and our oneness in Christ...

The Holy Spirit meets each one of us where we are, encourages us in The Truth, and reveals Who we are and Whose we are. John 14:20 says, "In that day you will KNOW that I am IN the Father, YOU are IN ME, and I AM IN you." Think on that!! The "Secret" is within you!! So we shall "expose *the Secret*" that we may know our LIFE!!

So, we shall gather at the Atlantic Ocean...rock in the rocking chairs on the porches, share stories of our lives, being taught by Holy Spirit the "secrets" of the Father's heart...relaxing...enjoying... HIS GOOD PLEASURE and PRESENCE!!

*We trust Father to bring us together. Holy Spirit will give you the nudge to come if you are to join us.*

*Remember:*

*Once a Pawleys Princess...Always a Pawleys Princess!!*

Contact Person: Jenny Fienning 843-671-2545 (h) ; 843-816-1659 (c)  
email: [jennyfianning@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyfianning@hotmail.com)

Session 1: 10/10-10/13.....Session 2: 10/14-10/17, 2008

Cost: \$250/session or \$400/week.. There are still a few places left

*Come and Enjoy our Father's Love! He is inviting you to His Table!*

*(E-Z Does It, 140 North Atlantic Ave., Pawleys Island, SC 843-235-3617*

## Poems of the Month

Another Silent Night

Once, shepherds huddled by a fire  
under a cold sky with a guiding star,  
as sheep lay asleep, trusting.

On a different night,  
tossing in bed in 2008 AD,  
the wolves in the room backed away

from a freshly kindled fire,  
and its eye of soft light,  
with which I saw me, the branch of Him.

No verse or doctrine here,  
though they pertain.  
This was being.

Not only healthy wood,  
with leaves, with blossoms  
was I, but a dew covered limb,

sparkling, of one tree,  
wet with Spirit,  
therefore, settled in a heavenly life.

BC/8-25-08

### **Dance Around the Maypole**

In the schoolyard stands the old Maypole,  
draped with many-colored ribbons,  
hanging over a circle of hard dirt,

a rainbow of sorts, atop a miniature earth,  
worn flat, pounded solid,  
from children's dances over the years.

The ribbons swirl whenever the wind stirs up.  
Before recess, and other times, the pole stands silent,  
waiting again for jubilant children watched by loving teachers.

Could the Maypole be pagan as some say,  
therefore, an object of disdain?  
Closer observation reveals it as the place of a curse.

One dark, terrible day, the pole held a man alone,  
with no ribbons, no children twirling,

weaving their ribbons carefree,  
their sounds swelling the air with happiness.

The ribbons flap now, though,  
the spectrum's aura pronounced on a bare pole,  
simple, no longer austere—our favorite place  
to wind and weave the ribbons,  
playing our hearts out forever now.

BC/9-24/08

## Prayer Request

When our son was in jail, we asked for prayer, when I was diagnosed with leukemia, we ask for prayer, when we have a need, we ask for your prayers to the Father. Now, we have a financial need in our ministry, we are **asking for your prayers**. Our Father already knows our needs, yet He says, "You have not, because you ask not." We are asking you to ask the Lord, and along with asking we are asking you to believe with us for the financial needs for our many radio stations.

**We have had a great response from this prayer request, keep it up intercessors!**

This is from Paul E. Billheimer's book, "Destined, to Overcome." **"Prayer is where the action is.** John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and E. M. Bounds tells us "God shapes the world by prayer."

A great illustration is the account of the Israelites battle against the Amalekites. Satan, God's enemy had stirred up the heathen nation of Amalek to fight the Israelites trying to keep them from entering the promise land. As the battle was beginning, Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." Joshua and his men began the battle. "And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" When Moses grew tired and could no longer hold up his arms, Aaron and Hur stood up on either side and supported him until the battle was won by God's people and Amalek was defeated.

These 3 men, Moses, Aaron and Hur were united in holding up the rod (symbolizes the Cross) of God, and also symbolic of His power and prayer. When the intercessors engaged in believing prayer, Satan's forces were bound and paralyzed. Then God's children were victorious. To the casual observer the battle was won in the valley where the troops were engaged but to the spiritually discerning the battle was won on the mountaintop. Prayer is truly where the action is.- Paraphrased by Margaret Lester

All prayer request sent to the Liberating Secret web-site will be send to Art and Fran Giles, our newly appointed Christ, Our Life Ministries intercessors. E-mail them at:

[deepwaters@roadrunner.com](mailto:deepwaters@roadrunner.com)

## This Month's Article:

Taken from "Yes, I Am."

### THE ONLY TWO NATURES

Norman Grubb

Now after this Biblical revelation of what we humans are -containers and agents - we find the Bible distinctly says that we have no nature of our own but express the nature of the particular deity indwelling us. On the one hand, Paul says in Ephesians 2 that while we were in our unredeemed condition, dead in trespasses and sins, we "walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience... and were by nature children of wrath" - not some nature of our own but of our satanic parent, his children in his wrath nature. Then on the other hand, regarding the redeemed, Peter tells us that by receiving "exceeding great and precious promises" we become "partakers of the divine nature." Quite obviously then, it's not some human nature, but God expressing His nature by us. Here are the two deity natures expressed in our humanity.

This could not be more explicit than it is in the Biblical account about the Garden of Eden. There we are told life and death were symbolized by the eating of the fruit of the trees. The Bible tells us that if Adam and Eve had eaten of the right tree they would have received eternal life. Yet we know that eternal life is not in a fruit but in a Person - in Him who said, "I am the

life." Therefore, if eating the right fruit means that into our first parents would have come the person who is eternal life, eating of the wrong fruit means that the false deity, the spirit of error, entered in and they became *his* dwelling place.

Now here is the point, the nitty gritty of the reality. All we redeemed humans recognize, when our eyes have been opened by grace, that we were sinners, were under the power of Satan, did his works, were his children. But do we realize that we actually were *he*, in the sense that humans are always manifesting the deity who expresses himself by us? Did any of us know, while unsaved, that we were Satan walking about in our human forms, or that the redeemed are Christ walking about in their human forms? We should know it now, for we are plainly told this.

I remember the surprise when I first read in 1 John 4:4, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." I knew that "He in me" was the Holy Spirit, but I suddenly woke up to the fact that there was equally "he in the world" in fallen humans, just as much as the Holy Spirit is in us when redeemed. And two verses later John is saying, "Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." That began to open my eyes, and I began to relate it to the symbol of the fruit of the garden.

Then I became alerted to Jesus' words as He confronted those opposing Him, as recorded in John 8:38-44. "I speak what I have seen with My Father: and you do what you have seen with your father," stated Jesus. As religious Jews they resented that, and indignantly responded, "We're *not* born of fornication. We have one Father, God." Jesus answered, "if God were your Father, you would love Me." Then He broke the truth wide open and declared outright, "You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do." When I read that, my eyes were opened to the second phrase as well as the first. The first says that we humans - all of us who have not yet become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ have Satan, not God, as our father. But the second phrase especially struck me: "... the lusts of your father you will do." Not that we are doing our own lusts, but the lusts of our father. Then all we are doing as humans is not a product of some supposed *human* fallen nature, but actually *Satan* himself expressing his own lusting nature by us! All we are, therefore, is merely the outer expression of this spirit of error, this god of this world, living his own Satan-form of life by our humanity.

That was revolutionary. I had always thought I was fulfilling my own natural desires; but not so, because we have no nature of our own. We have all been fulfilling the lusts of the god of self-centeredness, and what we think are just *our* sins are ours only in the sense that we are joined to Satan as branch to false vine, expressing his thoughts and deeds. So when the Bible says "All have sinned," the real inner truth is that the sinner is Satan, and we in a secondary sense are participating in his sinning.

This is the major area in which sin - or Satan, as the Scripture has said - has deceived us; and deceit means making us think that we are what we are not. Satan has played his greatest trick on us in making us think that life is "doing our own thing" - our own self-expression. Who of us in the wide world would ever suspect that we were not just "ourselves" in our self-activity but Satan operating in our form? Of course, Satan himself is the fundamentally deceived one, for he vainly imagines that he made himself independent when he rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. He imagines himself to be Mr. Independent Self, though actually he is still eternally and totally dependent on his Creator, and doing His will - as we see so clearly in the history of Job.

It is this same false concept of independence with which Satan has infected the human race. We just naturally think we are independent and doing our own thing. Independence is the huge lie swallowed by fallen, blinded, deceived humanity, and the great delusion from which we have to be finally and fully delivered before we can be our true selves. That is what Paul so perfectly explores and aims to deliver us from in Romans, chapters 6 to 8. That is the winning of the final battle over the delusion of the Fall. Our whole life has been built on the false assumption that we are just our own responsible selves, and when changes are needed they are needed in *us*. We can see it in our false self-righteousness, in our fallen days, when we imagined that *we ourselves* were living our own lives of good and evil (which we thought mainly good, with a few evil touches). Actually, all our "good" was evil, for it was a product of the spirit of independent self, the spirit of error. Self-effort *good* is no better than self-effort *evil*, being only Satan's self-effort produced by us. It is one thing to regard ourselves as humans merely influenced by Satan; but quite another matter to realize that it is actually *he* just being himself and living his own quality of life by me... and I merely his vessel, branch,

slave, temple. I am Satan in my human form.

One reason why the natural man cannot easily accept this fact is that he regards Satan's activity to be mainly the grosser evils like murder, theft, etc. But when our inner eyes are opened, we fully see that the spirit of error, the spirit of self-centeredness, can look highly respectable. We recognize that the self-loving self is usually disguised to make a nice appearance. So, for us who are enlightened, it is not hard to see that fallen humans are Satan - Mr. Self-centeredness himself - in his physical form. It is a profound eye-opener to realize that *all* forms of our apparent self-activity - even if good, helpful, and beneficial to others - are expressions of our self-loving self and thus, in actual fact, expressions of that Satanic spirit of self-centeredness in us. Good deeds are merely a product of the "good" part of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Two other scriptures also brought this into focus for me. First was 2 Corinthians 4:4, which speaks of the lost as those "in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds"; so there he was within us, in our unbelieving condition. The second is 1 John 3:12, in which John exhorts us to love our brothers, and adds, "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother." When I read that I asked myself, why are the words "of that wicked one" inserted? Why not just say, "Don't be like wicked Cain who slew his brother"? Because it was *not* "wicked Cain" who was the murderer, it was "that wicked one" who Jesus has said was "a murderer from the beginning," and he murdered Abel by Cain's hands. "The lusts of your father you will do."

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