

The INTERCESSOR

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

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We Have Been Deceived About Ourselves

By Norman Grubb

Perhaps the greatest stumbling block to being fully-functioning Christians is the universal misunderstanding, inherited from the Fall, of our human makeup. Norman explores Satan's subtle lie that hinders even the most committed Christians from fulfilling our divine purpose.

The Only Two "Natures"

After the 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 that 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

In our unredeemed condition ... we “were by nature children of wrath”—not some nature of our own but of our satanic parent, [Satan’s] children in his wrath nature.

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.

Satan was Our Father

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

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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

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recorded by 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, the god of this world, living his own Satan-form of life by our humanity.

We Have Been Deceived

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 of 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.

False Assumptions

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 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 Satan spirit of self-centeredness in us. Good deeds are

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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”

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this magazine is to further the great high calling of the Lord Jesus to carry His Gospel to the whole world. This calling is known in the Christian world as the Great Commission. Our interpretation of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity, fully God, made manifest in the flesh. He was tempted in all points as we are, but totally without sin. He was crucified for the sins of the world, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He gives the power to become the sons of God to all who receive Him.

Beyond this forgiveness of sins, *The Intercessor* is committed to proclaiming to every creature the mystery of the Gospel, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost means that Christ has joined Himself to us as one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). Thus we see that Christ has reproduced Himself in our flesh, and we Christians are really Christ living as us (Gal. 2:20).

Therefore, there is not only the forgiveness of sins but also a life in Christ of knowing we are dead to sin (Rom. 6). Furthermore, we are dead to the Law (Rom. 7), since the power of sin is through the Law. Christ is the only Lawkeeper (Rom. 8), and there is no independent human nature that can keep the Law, though we are continually tempted to believe so.

Belief in an independent human nature is Satan’s lie and the root of sin. Non-Christians are really Satan-indwelt, expressing his lusts (John 8:44), just as we have come to learn that Christians are Christ-indwelt, expressing His righteousness (2 Cor. 6:16). Humans have no moral nature of their own, meaning that we are simply expressions of the indwelling deity nature, either of Christ or Satan (the fallen created being who is the spirit of error). Sin in a Christian is a result of believing again Satan’s lie that there is a human nature which can do good or evil.

Our full restoration, then, is to see ourselves as Christ in the world and to labor and travail to see Christ formed in others according to the mighty working of the Spirit. This is “intercession,” the definite laying down of our lives to present every man perfect in Christ (Col. 1:28). *The Intercessor* is committed to this great and thrilling commission, the cost of bringing it about, and the resurrection joy of reaping the harvest!

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.”

We are seeing a tremendous revolutionary reality—that humans never had a nature by themselves. There were both created and later redeemed to express in simple spontaneity and naturalness Him who is God in us and who, Scripture says, “dwells in us and walks in us” (2 Cor. 6:16). Likewise, after the Fall, when we had freely joined ourselves to Satan, we had no nature of our own either. So there never has been a “human” nature. Therefore there is no point in considering whether we believers have two natures or one! No, we humans have *none*, but tragically or gloriously, spontaneously manifest the nature of the deity in us.

The Necessity of Choice

But as we investigate this actual, factual relationship between God and man—in which man is nothing but the agency by whom God reveals Himself as God, and God in love-action—it becomes obvious that man is not a robot, with no free expression of Himself as a person. It is precisely the opposite. We see the total freedom of the Divine Person fulfilling His love-purposes through the total freedom of the human person. And how can that be?

It is no paradox when, as we have already seen, freedom must make its choices and the free will then loves to be controlled by its choice. We still do what we want to do. There is no need to force a person’s will. All the other person need do is to attract and captivate our “want,” and then we will love to act in harmony with him. Give a child another toy, and his crying after the first one disappears.

People often ask, How can we conceive of God changing a person’s will, if he is free? The answer is that God changes our “want,” and the will follows spontaneously. Once God has captured our wills by drawing us back to Himself through Christ, then it is He in us who “wills and does of His good pleasure”

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(and it is always good!) and it is we who naturally, gladly, freely work it out (Phil. 2:13-14).

He who is the “Freedom of the universe” can only be His free Self by His sons as they are free. Only with freedom can there be expansion and development, so God’s universe can only be entrusted as an inheritance to those free to develop

The false concept of independent self is the all-round blockage; indeed, it is the only blockage of all life.

it—to persons, not automata. If there are two freedoms, that of the Creator Person and that of the created persons, the one simple necessity is that the Creator and created be in such a love-union that the sons love to fulfill the will of the Father, and yet always are consciously free in working it out.

It still remains as an apparent contra-

diction to reason and logic, I realize, but there is no contradiction in daily living. We who are in this love-union know we are free, and we make our free decisions and carry them out into action, yet we equally laughingly and delightedly know we are doing what is worked in us to will and do. So here is the perfection of freedom which we who have found “the way” delight in, and in which we freely operate.

This revelation from the Scriptures is so central to our very being that we will go over it again, for the repeating of something this important can only help settle the truth more firmly in us.

The Root—No Independent Self

Our failure to recognize that we Christians are never independent selves and have no human nature of our own but are always, eternally, expressions of the Deity Person whose property we are, and that we manifest His nature, is the root of all our confusion and frustrations.

All redeemed sons of God struggle with it in their newly awakened zeal to be the kind of people we know we ought to be. It is the root of our and Paul’s Romans 7 “wretchedness.” It is the blank wall of obstruction we appear to be confronted with in all of life’s problems. It also appears to us as an immovable block in our bringing Christ to others, with their deafened ears or prejudiced hearts. The false concept of independent self is the all-round blockage; indeed, it is the only blockage of all life.

It is the great deception. The serpent deceived Eve; and sin, which is Satan’s garment of deception, the Bible says, deceives us. For sin’s principle is “I’ll do things my way, not God’s way”—the precise character of Satan. So what has happened is that Satan has tricked fallen

humanity into thinking that we, like himself, are really independent selves, running our own lives in our own way.

He has totally blinded us to the fact that we are merely expressions of him, the false deity—actually Satan in our human forms. Who among the millions of us in our lost condition ever thought that we were actually Satan manifesting himself by us? When we responded to the conviction of the Spirit—enough to know we were sinners, under the condemnation of the law, without God and without hope—we simply saw ourselves as slaves of Satan, doing his evil deeds; even *children* of the devil, having his character of self-loving self.

But none of us recognized that actually it was he, the spirit of error, who was living *his own life* by us—he being the real sinner and we walking Satans (just as the redeemed become walking Christs). We were under the false conception that it was just we who were the sinners, and the self-centeredness our own distorted independent self. And it is because we did not know ourselves as "walking Satans" that we now have great difficulty in knowing ourselves as "walking Christs."

This is what ties us in knots. We have been so grossly deceived—and the deceit is much more dangerous than blindness, because when blind we know we are blind, but when deceived we think we are what we are not.

The Liberating Truth

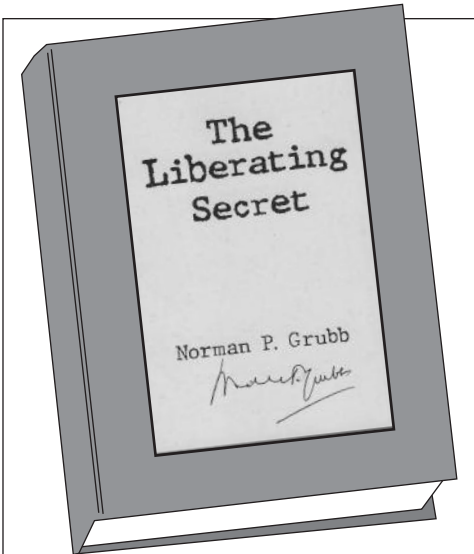
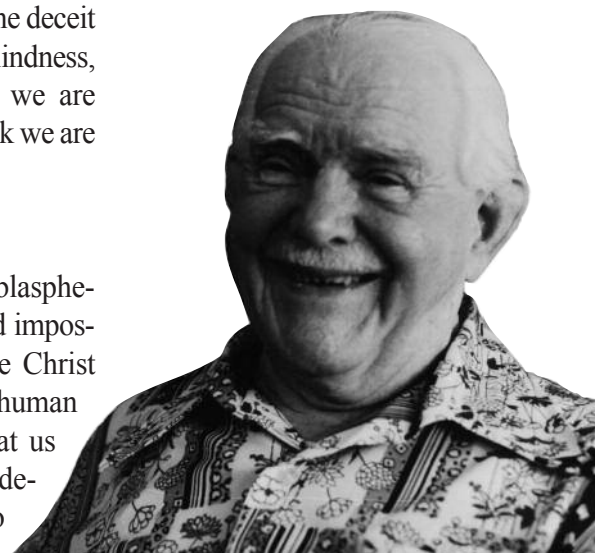
Does it not seem almost blasphemous, or certainly ridiculous and impossible, that we could actually be Christ expressing Himself in our human forms? Look at us! Yes, look at us through the illusion of being independent, responsible people who

should somehow become like Him. Now contrast this with the "notion" that we are Christ in our human forms. It is blasphemy! But we will clear this hurdle, and the leap is clear, simple and sane.

So now we have had a first hard look at this revolutionary fact, plain in the Scriptures, yes hidden from (we may say) everybody who is not of the Spirit, and equally hidden from the vast majority of Bible-based believers. It is the fact of the deity-indwelt life being as much the condition of the lost as of the saved. Recognition of this is the key to living with all boldness the liberated human life. ■

—Yes, I Am

For many years after his retirement as General Secretary of the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Norman Grubb traveled extensively sharing the truth of our union with Christ. He was the author of many books and pamphlets, a number of which are available through the Zerubbabel Book Ministry. Norman P. Grubb entered the Kingdom at 98 years of age.



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Editor's Note

One aspect of the Total Truth that has been challenging for many Christians to accept is the concept that prior to containing Christ's Spirit at our salvation, we were containers expressing the spirit of Satan (joined to the human spirit at the Fall). In fact, in a 2009 poll conducted by Barna Group*, found that 40% of self-identified Christians (not specifically "born-again") strongly believed that Satan was not even a real being, but simply a symbol of evil. Taking that view requires ignoring a good deal of the Bible, as it has much to say about who Satan is and how he operates. Satan would love for everyone to continue on deceived about him, but God's light shines out to expose the truth.

This issue of *The Intercessor* is meant to show Satan for who he is. It focuses on how Satan came into existence, the lies he uses to deceive mankind, and his place in God's sovereign plan to bring about "a vast company of sons" as joint heirs with Christ.

The lead article, "We Have Been Deceived About Ourselves," taken from Norman Grubb's *Yes, I Am*, exposes the root lie by which Satan has blinded mankind—saved and unsaved, alike. Norman leads us through a biblical journey of discovery clearly presenting what the Scriptures say about who we are before and after salvation.

"The Origin of Evil" explores where evil came from—but more importantly, who evil/sin is and how he operates. An excerpt from Page Pre-witt's booklet: *"Life: The What, The Who, The Why,"* provides a wonderfully

practical explanation of how Satan tricks us using our thoughts and feelings and how to avoid this sin trap.

In a fresh personal testimony, entitled "Found," Marian Kinahan shares how her feelings of being "lost" pushed her to need answers in her life. Through a Christian friend, Marian accepted Jesus as her Savior. Over time, His Spirit shed light on specific areas of unbelief/sin, and through confession and repentance, she was able to "out" Satan from her life and "walk in the light" as a clean vessel. By continuing to affirm the truth that she was not an "alone I," but in a spirit-union with Jesus Christ, Marian found "a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11) and true fellowship with God and His people.

Two more Norman Grubb articles round out this issue's focus. "Man's Unlearned Lesson" tackles the implications of the Fall and what it teaches us about ourselves today. As Norman says, "Man must understand himself," and so he sets out to "help mixed-up Christians sort things out!"

And "No Such Thing as Independent Self," taken from Norman's booklet, "To All Christians...It's As Simple as This," furthers the discussion of how God fulfilled His designed purpose for mankind through Satan's permanent choice of disobedience. "Because we are God's sons and His means of expressing Himself in the universe," says Norman, "we have to learn and drink to its bitter depths that great lie of the independent self." But Satan has always been merely "God's convenient agent" to develop "not only saved, but safe sons...by whom He would manage and develop by inheritance the universe, together with His Son." (Heb. 1:2; Rom. 8:14).

In "Bible Bedrock," highlighting 2 Corinthians 5:21, Norman explains that salvation, in totality, delivers us not only from the outer "product" of sin—our sins, but also rids us of the "producer" of sin—Satan.

Continuing to build on biblical insights into Satan's lies and the Total Truth, this issue's "Q and A" feature addresses reader inquiries about the qualities of Satan and the extent of authority God has given him in this world, as well as a question on the role sin plays in our lives.

In addition, we've provided a special resource: "What does the Bible Say About Satan," a compilation of Scriptures for your reference. It is a powerful tool, collecting all in one place what God reveals about the Enemy.

Please use this issue of *The Intercessor* to add knowledge and clarify your understanding of the devil. Praise God that once we are born-again, Satan can never get back to our spirit-center! And remember, as he pulls at us and tempts us from the outside, we thank and praise Jesus Christ that He has joined Himself to us—one spirit—so it is He, in/as us, who can withstand the Evil One: "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). We are He, and we trust Him alone to live victoriously through us! ■

*www.barna.com

FOUND

By Marian Kinahan

To be a person is to know who I am and to function as who I am—Norman P. Grubb (Freedom in the Spirit, Pt. 1)

When I heard this statement from a Norman Grubb video, it struck a chord with me. It reminded me of my spiritual journey these last 30 years—from not knowing myself to knowing who I am. I never met Norman Grubb or personally heard him speak. But his teachings have been a vital part of my life.

Before I was born again I felt lost—not because I knew I was a sinner—but because I did not fit in with those around me.

I was the oldest in a large Irish Catholic family. My parents, were strict disciplinarians, particularly my father. I towed the line, helped a lot on the farm, and looked after my younger siblings. I did not dare risk the consequences of “getting in trouble.”

Even after leaving home for boarding school, I found it difficult to make friends; I did not want to join in anything that was against the rules. I went to third level college but was too immature to know what I wanted and even how to study. After failing the first year, I went to a smaller college to study business but just wanted to be free and independent—and didn’t complete my studies. When I expressed an interest in banking, my father brought me to meet the local bank manager. I applied to get into banking and was accepted.

My job was stable and had learning opportunities. It was like another family. I also found a place among work colleagues, and when I joined local sports clubs, I found a “place in life.” But this feeling of belonging didn’t last long. These relationships were merely superficial. I still wasn’t fitting in with those around me. Unlike my siblings, I did not rebel against the early discipline of my parents and so never joined the drinking social life or club scenes. I was diligent to attend mass every week and every morning I could during Lent. But I heard nothing there that held any answers.

Praise God, this “lost” feeling meant I was open for answers. Then a Christian friend shared the Gospel with me and introduced me to her Christian friends. This was the first time

I met people and didn’t feel like I had to act a part. It was as near to being comfortable with others as I had ever been. A few months later, when I personally accepted Christ, I knew something had changed—God had a purpose for me, and I was in the perfect place He had for me.

In the video, Norman went on to say “If you can’t say you are wholly satisfied, that you can handle all of life, something is not quite in focus yet.”

And so it was for me, after a few years I knew there was still something not quite right. I was hiding what I really felt (inadequate) and pretending all was well—but it wasn’t. I thought I was the only one that felt like this. But guess what? It may sound very basic now, but I realized I wasn’t any different from others. Everyone has similar fears and feelings.

I had felt convicted that I was not like other Christians who seemed happy with everything, speaking in tongues etc. I did not ‘feel’ this Love for Jesus, and I did not feel happy all the time.

God was faithful to bring into my life Christians who had gone through the same uncertainty in their Christian life. But they had found answers in what Norman Grubb had to share: that what I was feeling about myself was not who I am; there wasn’t a “just me” who was inadequate because when I was born-again, Christ and I were joined in my spirit centre (1 Cor. 6:17). Christ/I am perfectly adequate in spite of my feelings.

Oh, the freedom once I caught hold of God’s wealth! To read Scriptures now and to see what I didn’t see before: “I am the vine and you are the branches” (John 15:5)—the Christian life is His life lived out through us. “God is love” (1 John 4:8). He doesn’t give us love to share out, but He is the love in us—and through us for others (Gal. 2:20). I didn’t need to “feel” love! Jesus Christ lives out his love-nature through me—“To live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21)!

Not everyone gets to hear this when they are first born again. I didn’t! I was told by a fellow Christian that I must not have received all God’s gifts when I was born again, to explain why something was missing—LIE! I learned we

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Man's *Unlearned* Lesson

by Norman Grubb

Although Christians are familiar with the biblical account of the fall of man and the Gospel of redemption, few have seen beyond the symbols to the principles of the spiritual kingdom. This excerpt from Norman Grubb's God Unlimited highlights God's "lessons" to reveal who we are, how we function, and His totality.

The Meaning of the Fall

There is a double fall recorded in the Bible—of Lucifer and of Adam. What this fall meant was the decisive choice of a created spirit to reject its predestined freedom in the service of God, and to take the road of the unexplored alternative, the possibility of going the opposite way, into the bondage of self-sufficiency, becoming the spirit of self-love in place of containing the Spirit of self-giving.

The very name Lucifer, Light-bearer, implies that this exalted being, probably the highest of all created beings according to the descriptions in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-17, was only to be the manifestor of the Eternal Light, not the light in himself, which no creature can be. He took that "qualitative leap" which broke open the kingdom of hell, of which he became the originator, its god, the father of lies, the primal sinner, the sin-spirit. He set himself to replace God by becoming a god in reverse, and thus "fell" irrevocably, unredeemably from the kingdom of God's heaven, having fixed himself in the total opposite.

The fall of Adam, which has involved us all, was of the same quality, but not the same quantity. There are some significant facts about the account of the fall. Why was Adam set in the garden between two unique trees, both said to be in the midst of the garden, therefore close to each other, both marked out by what is said of them and the names given them as no normal trees? Plainly they were symbolic, for the fruit of no tree gives eternal life or eternal death.

Eternal life, we have seen, is a Person, the Spirit of life, and

eternal death the same, the spirit of error. These trees represented the two Gods, the Triune God and the god of this world, just as the fruit of a tree still symbolizes Christ our life in the Lord's supper.

Hidden Lessons

What original command, the only command, was given Adam? To eat, for eating is receiving, the basic function of the human self. It is most striking that here at the creation of man this was the only command given him, for it is still the only command—"Receive ye the Holy Ghost." "To as many as received Him..." But there was also a prohibition, "Don't eat of the wrong tree." Remarkable that nothing was said to Adam about eating of the right tree, and there was never one indication

that he paid any attention to that tree or showed any interest in it. Why? Because, as intelligent and free people, we must understand who we are and why we are and how we function.

These incidents in the Garden of Eden were education, not probation as we are usually told they were.

Man must understand himself, then

he can act intelligently; which, in its minute way, is the purpose of my writing: to help mixed-up Christians sort things out, starting with themselves. So, in effect, God said to Adam, "Just eat, just learn that is the primary function of a human being—receptivity."

But there was another subtle piece of education wrapped up in this, subtle because man must learn it by himself, and not have it outwardly spoon-fed to him. "Don't eat of the wrong tree" would mean that, as a free being, he could go the wrong way; and supposing he was tempted to do so, then what? There lay the hidden lesson. Humans are containers, to be possessed by another Spirit in the human spirit. They are slaves to be bossed (Rom. 6:16). They do not boss themselves. If therefore Adam feels the pull to go in the wrong direction, it is not in him to resist or refuse. But he and Eve did feel that pull. So then what?

As intelligent and free people, we must understand who we are and why we are and how we function.

There was the tree of life, all the positive power in it to do the right and resist the wrong, for that tree was Christ. Adam never so much as glanced in its direction, because it never dawned on him that humans are basically helpless, and that his deliverance could not be in his own resistance, but only in the counteraction of the Spirit of Truth within him, if he took of Him. He never did. He never even glimpsed the basic lesson man has to learn, and so he was shanghaied straight into the trap. He remained a recipient, for man always is that, but he received the wrong spirit through the wrong tree—"the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience," the spirit of self-sufficiency, the spirit of self-love, the spirit of error.

Man's Helplessness

That is why man has to take the long, long trail back to the discovery of his helplessness, a trail that only ends when we reach Romans chapter seven, a trail which has many a booby trap in it, many a tree-root to trip the unwary; and it is a trail nearly always trodden after the new birth, not before, because we have become so completely at home in the illusion of our self-sufficient selves that we do not lightly learn the lesson that the father of our race failed to learn. But we must learn it, because we say again, if God is going to live His life intelligently in intelligent and willing humans, they must learn and accept the truth about themselves as well as about Himself; and that is also precisely why we are busying ourselves about talking these things over in such detail.

Even the facts of the Fall and our consequent condition are rarely known. Few seem to have grasped that man is not just an independent self doing as he pleases and doing it in his own strength. He never has been this. He has always been indwelt by a god. He has always had an inner union—to whom? "Greater is He that is in you (the believer) than he that is in the world." Who is this second "he" in the world, if not the Satanic spirit? And he is actually named a few verses later (1 John 4:6): "Hereby know we the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error." We have already quoted the great passage descrip-

tive of the condition of fallen humanity—Ephesians 2:1–3—which includes that statement, "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"; or the other, "in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds..."

Sin is a Person

The fact that is hidden from many is that sin is essentially a person, just as holiness is a Person. Holiness is the "Spirit of holiness" (Rom. 1:4), the Holy Spirit. We have pointed out all along that since the human is the container of the Divine Person, all goodness, love, righteousness, wisdom, power, holiness and the rest are, not we, but HE in us, "Jesus Christ who has been made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption."

Few seem to have grasped that man is not just an independent self doing as he pleases and doing it in his own strength. He never has been this.

But the opposite is equally and logically true. Sin is not a thing, but an indwelling person, the spirit of fear, the spirit of bondage, the evil spirit, the spirit of the world, the spirit of anti-Christ. Sins are that spirit expressing himself through the human faculties and appetites, just as holiness and love are the Other Spirit expressing Himself through the same channels. Thus a pregnant word is spoken of the first sin recorded

after the fall—the sin of Cain, when John says that he "was of that wicked one and slew his brother." Precisely, it was not primarily Cain that was the murderer, but he whom Jesus called "a murderer from the beginning"—through Cain.

This is important because our very premise is wrong if we think that our first father could have resisted temptation. If he could, we can. But can we? Is not that our problem and failure, until we learn that the way to meet temptation is by recognizing the One in us, and not by struggling against it ourselves?

Sin is essentially a person, just as holiness is a Person.... Sins are that [evil] spirit expressing himself through the human faculties and appetites, just as holiness and love are the Other Spirit expressing Himself through the same channels.

We start mixed-up, if we start by thinking that the Garden of Eden was a scene of probation to try men out. God is no such experimenter, dangling men on a string to see how they will react. God knoweth our frame that we are but dust, and He

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Q&A

Question:

In the magazine, I read that God determined—not just permitted—the circumstances that come into my life. I know that many of the things that have happened to me have turned out good. Does that mean whatever befalls me—including my sins, my mistakes, my choices, etc.—have been orchestrated by God?

Answer:

Romans 8:28 says that, “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (KJV). In the larger context of Romans 8:18-39, Paul is referring to the sufferings of the present time which do not have the power to separate us from God. So, Paul is not referring to our sinful actions which somehow God works together for our good, but rather to painful circumstances (see vs. 18-22; 35-39).

In addition, verse 28 says, “All things work together for good to them that love God.” Loving God means obeying His commandments (John 14:21). Sin, however, involves a conscious choice to disobey God and does not express love for God. We can never justify sin on any basis; basically, sin is spitting in God’s face, saying, “I will go my own way. Paul even said, Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it?” (Rom. 6:1-2).

So we should not say we are grateful for our sinful past. Sin does not drive us to God and does not press us to a spirit knowledge of ourselves. Sin drives us away from God (Isa. 59:2). Rather, we should say we are grateful for God’s law and our experience of frustration and pow-

erlessness to stop sinning (Rom. 7), for that is what pressed us to find an answer, not the sin itself.

Question:

In many writings of Mr. Grubb and in *The Intercessor* it is stated that before we are saved we are united to the spirit of Satan, and when we are saved the spirit of Satan is cast out and we are joined to the Holy Spirit.

My problem is that we know that Satan is not ubiquitous (present everywhere). In that sense, how can Satan be joined to every unsaved person?

Answer:

Satan is spirit (Eph. 2:2 “...the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience”); however, Satan is not ubiquitous/omnipresent. He is not everywhere—he is not in rocks, trees, or in believers, etc. But God gave Satan dominion over the world for a time and made him His convenient agent in His designs of salvation for the human race. Satan is called the “god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4) and the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2). What power/quality does air possess? Air is all around and has access to everyone on earth at once. What may be further helpful in understanding this is a scripture that Norman Grubb cites as being impactful to him in his revelation: 1 John 4:4, “Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.” Who is this “he” that is in the world, if not the Satanic spirit? Who is named in the next part of that verse... “the spirit of error.”

Bible Bedrock

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:21 (King James Version)

Our first response to the greatness of grace shown in our Lord Jesus Christ was simply to recognize our outer sinfulness, to believe that our guilt and curse had been removed by His shed blood, and to rejoice that God would remember our sins against us no more, as guaranteed by His resurrection.

But what we did not know then (and were not within reach of understanding) was that this was no *real* salvation if it delivered us merely from the outer penalty of our sins but left us as “vessels of wrath”—still containers of the inner *sin-person*, that old serpent the devil, still reproducing his evil fruit by us. Complete salvation must rid us of producer as well as product, cause as well as effect, sin as well as sins.

This *total salvation*—the totality of Christ’s cross—redemption—is the *deeper* discovery which Paul himself didn’t see in its full implication until he lived three years in Arabia. This is what he speaks of in his Galatian letter as the gospel which “I neither received of man, nor was I taught it, but [I received it] by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” That revelation was centered around not the blood but the physical body of Jesus on the cross. And what is the importance of that? It is because *a living body is the dwelling place of the spirit*, and therefore *when a body dies, the spirit is no longer in it*.

Therefore Paul (when writing to the Corinthians for whom he was an intercessor, and thus having insight into the full meaning of the Savior’s intercession for the world) opened up its total significance as no other did. “We are convinced,” he in effect wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, “that when the Savior died on our behalf it was a *body* death, and this means that if He died for all, then we all died.” And what did His body represent before God? Paul tells us in verse 21 that “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us.”

Please note: *sin* is not *sins*. By His shed blood He “bore away our sins,” but in His crucified body He “was *made sin*.” This is fantastically deeper than “bearing our sins,” wonderful though that was. “Made sin” is almost unthinkable; for sin is Satan’s label, just as we might say love is God’s. Satan is, as it were, Mr. Sin, the spirit of error.

Where does the spirit of error live? In human bodies, ever since Adam and Eve partook of that forbidden fruit. So when Jesus in His body hung on the cross, “made sin,” that body represented all the bodies of humanity, which are all containers of sin. Yes, He *in His body on the cross* was made the representative for all the bodies of the human race having Satan, sin’s originator, living within.

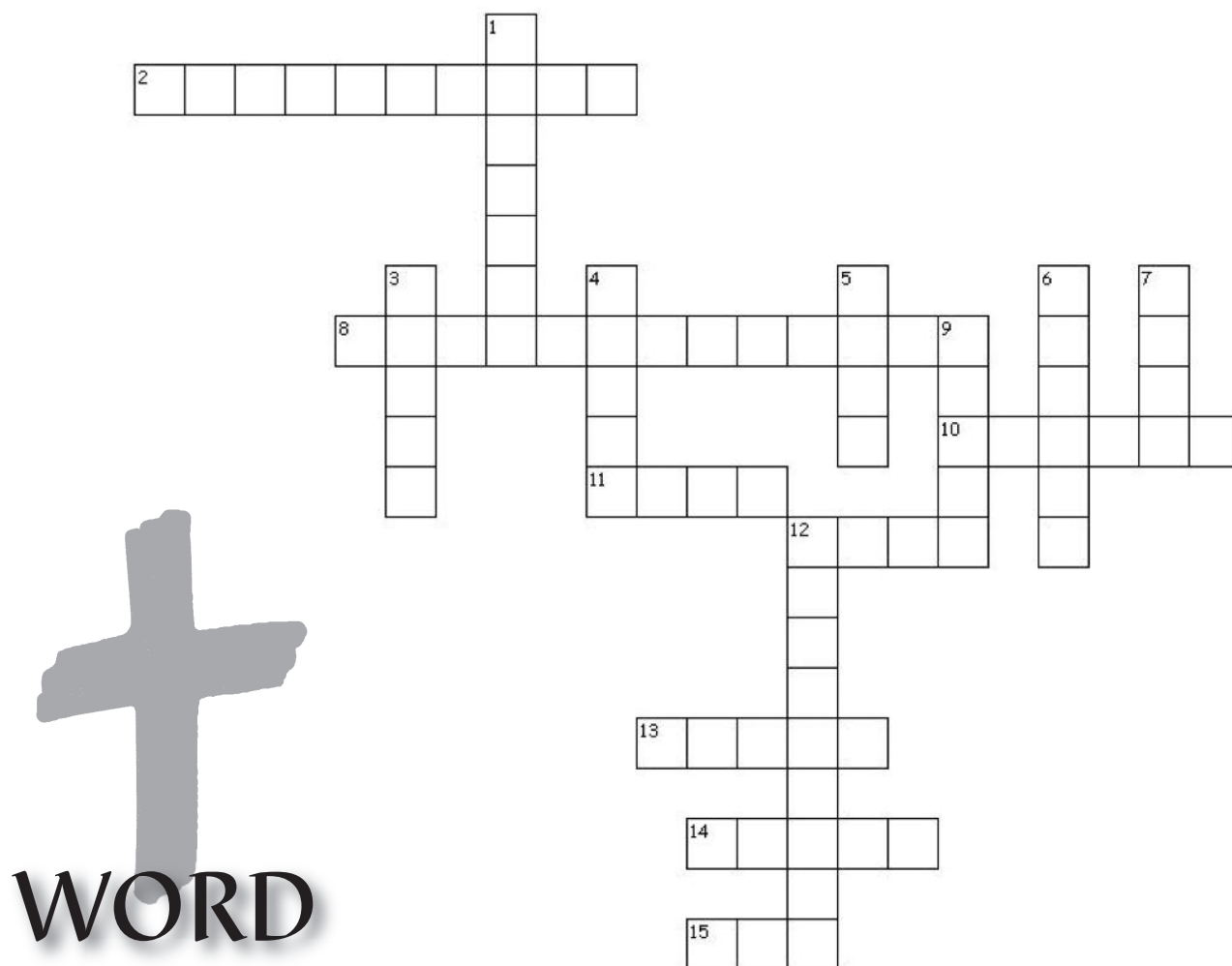
There that body died and was buried. When a body dies, the burial is to make it plain that no spirit remains in it. And so it is that Paul can so authoritatively state in Romans 6: “...in that He died, He died unto sin once”—not, in this context, died *for* our *sins*, but died *unto sin*. (That is why the blood is not mentioned by Paul after Romans chapter 5. From there onward the subject is His *body death*.) Christ’s burial was to signify in plainest terms that no spirit remained in it.

So now Paul just as boldly states that we believers, being *buried with Him*, are “dead to sin”—a truth way beyond being only cleansed from sins. *We are no longer containers of sin* (the same thought as being containers of Satan), and we are to state this truth and affirm it as completely as we state and affirm that we are justified from our sins. “The body of sin” is “done away with” (Rom. 6:6), meaning that our bodies are no longer sin’s dwelling place. And we are to reckon this as *fact* (Rom. 6:11).

—Yes, I Am

SATAN—GOD'S CONVENIENT AGENT

In this issue, Norman Grubb's "Bible Bedrock," "Man's Unlearned Lessons," "No Such Thing as Independent Self," "The Origin of Evil," and "We Have Been Deceived About Ourselves," give us God's truth about how Satan is His convenient agent to fulfill God's pre-ordained plan for His creation from the origin of evil, the deception of man and his indwelling by the person of sin, to the full deliverance of all men by the body death and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For us to be safe vessels for God to live His life through, we have to know fully that we are not self-operating selves, but spirit-selves, indwelt by Satan as unbelievers, and then joined with Christ as one spirit when we are redeemed by Him. As you search the scripture for the answers to this puzzle, you will see God's glorious truth affirmed by His Word!



WORD

ACROSS

2. Satan, evil men, and all men are God's convenient agents as we read in Acts 4:27-28, "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel _____ before to be done."
8. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul says our salvation is possible because Christ was made sin for us so we can partake of His body death with Him and our spirit can be released from its bondage with the spirit of Satan, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the _____ of God in him."
10. 2 Corinthians 6:16 tells us we were created and redeemed from death for God's purpose, "For ye are the _____ of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
11. Isaiah 14:13-14 tells how Satan sinned against God and fell from Heaven, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:... I will be like the most _____."
12. 1 John 3:12 teaches us that Satan was the operating spirit in Cain that first sin after the fall, "Not as _____, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother."
13. In John 8:44, Jesus speaks the truth of unbelievers, "Ye are of your father the _____, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
14. In Romans 6:10-11, Paul speaks of Christ's once and for all body death, "For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but _____ unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."
15. 1 Corinthians 1:30 points out that there is nothing good in us, but that Christ lives His perfect life through us, "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of _____ is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

DOWN

1. In 1 John 4:6, we learn there are but two spirits we can contain, "We are of God: he that _____ God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."
3. 2 Corinthians 4:4 names Satan and his purpose, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the _____ of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
4. Romans 6:16 tells us that we are only vessels to contain a spirit, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto _____, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
5. Ephesians 2:1-2 shows us exactly who we were as unbelievers, "And you hath he quickened, who were _____ in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."
6. James 4:7 says when we believe God's truth about us, that we are containers for Christ to live through, we can resist Satan's lies, "_____ yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
7. Isaiah 45:7 shows that God created good and bad and gives us freedom to choose Him or Satan, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create _____: I the Lord do all these things."
9. Revelation 12:9 says Satan's purpose is to trick us into believing his lie--and we know that lie is that we can operate independently, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and _____, which deceiveth the whole world."
12. Since we have died with Christ, we are no longer containers of sin, as Romans 6:6 tells us, "Knowing this, that our old man is _____ with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

What Do the Scriptures Say About Satan?

Short answer...a lot! If ever we need a clear picture of the spiritual battle we face with the Enemy, the Bible gives it. If you believe the Bible, there is no room to argue that Satan is not a real being who is the enemy of God. His aim is to deceive as many people as possible into thinking they are independent selves who are separate from God or from him. He does this while "masquerading as an angel of light." Here is a comprehensive guide to scriptures that reference the "deceiver," the "spirit of error," the "thief," the "tempter," the "father of lies."

Genesis 3:1-5

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:13

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Job 1:6-12

6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the

earth, going back and forth on it."

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Isaiah 14:11-15

11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.

12 How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

15. But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

Zechariah 3:1-2

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"



Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Matthew 6:13**

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 13:38-39

38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one,

39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

**Matthew 16:23**

23 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."

Matthew 25:41

41 Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

Luke 8:12

12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

Luke 22:3-6

3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

5 They were delighted and agreed to give him money.

6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

John 8:44

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks

his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 10:10

10 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 12:40

40 He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.

John 13:2

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Acts 5:3

3 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?

Acts 13:10

10 You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?

Romans 16:20

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

1 Corinthians 12:10

10 ...to another, distinguishing between spirits,...

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

10 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,

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 11:3

3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:14

14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

Ephesians 2:1-6

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 4:27

27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 6:11-16

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

1 Timothy 1:19-20

19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Hebrews 2:14

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 John 2:13

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 3:8

8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:10

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:6

6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Jude 1:9

9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Revelation 12:9

9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Revelation 12:12

12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in

them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.

Revelation 13:6

6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Revelation 13:14

14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Revelation 20:1-3

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.
2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.
3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Revelation 20:10

10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Man's Unlearned Lesson

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only puts us through absolutely necessary grades of education that we may learn, even as the Son Himself had to "learn obedience (recognition of His Father in action in Him) through the things which he suffered (temptations)"; and thus we can become eternally free, healthy, happy cooperators with God, knowing exactly who He is and who we are, and loving the relationship.

The Critical Difference

One other fact should be noted. I said that Adam's fall was qualitatively the same as Lucifer's, but not quantitatively.

Lucifer's fall was total. He chose in himself to be a god of another quality, and thus set himself as a rival and alternative to God. His sin and fall were absolute and irrevocable. He became god in reverse.

Adam's fall was of the same quality, but not quantity. He fell through the temptation of another, through deceit, lies, misrepresentation. He was responsible and therefore guilty, for he chose to follow instead of seeking the way of escape right there available to him, and therefore his fall had the same quality of disobedience and rebellion; but it was not in quantity complete and absolute in the sense of an open-faced rejection of God. His interest was rather the attractions of the flesh than revolt against God. If he could have kept

both God and sin, he would have done so.

His outlook was not totally reversed. He had not irrevocably chosen evil to be his good. He was more a kidnapped slave than a willing son of the devil; indeed Scripture speaks of us as children, not sons, of the evil one, and a child is defined as "differing nothing from a servant." Adam, therefore, knew good and evil, whereas Satan knows only evil as his good. Adam had the moral sense, the conscience, the "law written in the heart," an impress of the image of God in him not obliterated as in Satan, and God could and did meet and talk with him immediately after his fall. Adam was redeemable.

—*God Unlimited*

The Origin of Evil

by Norman Grubb

We often hear it said that the origin of evil is an unfathomable mystery, but, unless I am mistaken, I have not found it so. It seems plain enough. First, we understand evil to be the term we use as the opposite of good. But, good is the term we use of God who is love, for all that love does is good. Thus Jesus, when called Good Master by the rich young ruler, said, "Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but God!" So then, if good is the term used of the Living God who is the other-love, evil must be the term used of anyone who, as a person, is the opposite of God, and evil because he is self-love. Evil, therefore, is a person who, as a free person, has made the opposite choice to God and is fixed in it—a misused self rather than a right-used self.

Freedom Involves Choice

This is why in Isaiah, God says, "I am the Lord... I create evil." The moment God creates persons like Himself, and, in no other way can He have sons to develop His universe, they can only be developing persons by their freedom of choice; and fundamental choice is, shall I be an expression of God in His self-giving love, or shall I, in my freedom, separate myself as a person (though, of course, eternally having my being in God) and function as a self-loving self? To be such, the opposite to the Self-giving One, would be what we call evil.

Evil, therefore, is a necessary alternative in freedom. To be free involves the possibility of being evil. That is why it

says that God creates evil. If He creates persons, He must create them free or they are not persons. If they are free, they can choose to become the opposite to Him in His fixed choice, and that is evil. Therefore, in giving freedom, God gives evil as a possible alternative.

And that, I think, is the eternal wonder of God's love in redemption, and the final revelation of the ultimate of love. In creating free persons, He created the possibility of the evil choice, yet He is not responsible if that choice was made. He could, therefore, have said, "Well, they

Evil... is a necessary alternative in freedom. To be free involves the possibility of being evil.

made the choice for which I am not responsible. Leave them to it, and let Us make another race of persons," which is what He told Moses at the incident of the golden calf to stir in Moses the love-response he must have to handle Israel at this crisis. Exodus 32:9-14 and 32:32.

But love belongs to need. Love is the debtor and need always love's creditor, for need, as Paul said, has an inescapable claim on love, which exists to meet it. So God as love has to go that second mile. Responsible for freedom, but not responsible for that wrong choice made in freedom, He says, "I will take the whole upon

Myself, both the freedom for which I am responsible, and its wrong use, for which I am not responsible; and I will take that ultimate curse of that wrong choice upon, Myself, and remove it in the blood of My Son"—the Lamb ordained to death before the foundation of the world.

Evil is a Person

So we know where evil began. It was the first free person, not of this human race, but of the angelic order, who could only be established in his unique appointment as "the anointed cherub that covereth" (Ezekiel 28:14) by becoming fixed by choice as Lucifer, which means bearer of God's light. But, instead, he spoke his free word of faith which fixed him in self-interest, self-seeking, self-exaltation (Isaiah 14:13-14). Evil, therefore, had its public origin in a person who became fixed in self-centredness, the opposite to God. This was "sin" which John explained as "transgression of the law," law being the way a thing works; and the way the universe works is by Him who is love. So sin is a person who is self-loving love, just as righteousness is the Person who is self-giving love. Both are persons, for the universe is the Person, and we, as persons, His sons in the Son, Head and Body. It is in our separation from Him that we have come to speak of aspects of Him as things, as abstractions, such as goodness, love, power, peace, joy, etc., or alternatively of evil, sin, hate, envy, etc., whereas they are the Person who is these things.

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No Such Thing as *Independent Self*

Now we see the great fundamental truth that there is no such thing as an independent self, for there is only One Self in the Universe; for Lucifer, now called Satan, was self-deceived into imagining he was independent. In actual fact, he forever remains God's convenient agent, fixed in his negativeness. Cast out of heaven, God uses him in His vitally necessary preparation of what He had planned from before the world's foundation—to have a vast company of sons, created persons like Himself, by whom He would manage and develop by inheritance the universe, together with His Son (Heb. 1:2, Rom. 8:14).

These sons must come to their consciousness of being persons by being confronted with these same necessary opposites. So, while given all God's riches of goodness in the Garden, there was one tree they must not touch or they would die to their created privileges as His sons. God intended and purposed, by the fact of the presence of this cast-out devil in the form of a wily serpent, to entice these first two, Adam and Eve, to choose Satan's self-for-self way and take what Eve was deceived into thinking would be beneficial to herself, though against the word of her Creator.

By this means, the human family would learn to its depths the opposite nature, not ours, but the nature of the "god of this world." This happened to them by receiving and eating of that false fruit, just as it was said that to partake of the other tree, the Tree

of Life, and eat its fruit would mean receiving eternal life (Gen. 3:22), showing that fruit to be symbolic of receiving Christ, our eternal life. Eating the false fruit meant receiving this opposite form of life which is really death, the nature of self-for-self.

Paul describes in Ephesians 2:1-3 how that becomes a fact of us fallen humans, expressing, not a nature of our own (of which there is no such thing) but the nature of our false father, expressing his lusts. And Jesus turned the spotlight on that fact when He told the self-righteous Pharisees (of whom we all were in our Satan-indwelt days), "Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father ye will do" (John 8:44).

Thus, Jesus exposed once for all that we humans by our faculties and appetites never have had a nature of our own, but either "take their nature from God and are His children," or "take their nature from the devil and are his children..." (1 John 3:10, Amp.) Therefore we were expressing Satan's lust nature in all its forms (the works of the flesh), which were not our but his. In our fallen days we readily cooperated ("the lusts of your father ye will do"). He, Satan, was the sinner, but we were wholly accessory to the fact and were headed for a like destiny.

But here we see the subtle deceit of the devil, which is our vital spot in our coming to a final understanding of who we really are. Satan deceived us into thinking that we are independent selves, even as he deceivedly

thinks he himself is. Revelation 12:9 is a key Scripture on this, showing that Satan's chief operation is "deceiving the whole world"—making us think we are who we are not. We think we are committing those sins, being possessed by those lusts and negative responses, and we are deceived. They are his expressed by us. He imparts that deceit into us as if it is us, but it is he masquerading as us.

And God's sole purpose is to expose this lie of independent self. Because we are God's sons and His means of expressing Himself in the universe, we have to learn and drink to its bitter depths that great lie of the independent self—that lie of the Author of Lies with which he himself is self-deceived.

The fact is we can always transmit what we are or think we are, and so Satan did that transmitting to us, his fellow creatures, and we all normally think we just run ourselves, do our own things (Is. 53:6), make up our own minds and "naturally" operate as self-relying. The Lie!

We have to learn and experience it as The Lie, so that once really seen as The Lie and the remedy in Christ, we shan't be fooled again. We may slip by temptation, but we know our slip and how to return. We thus become not only saved, but safe sons. Once bit, twice shy! ■

—To All Believers...It's as Simple as This
by Norman Grubb

Life: The What, The Who, The Why

by Page Prewitt

Here is an excerpt from Page Prewitt's wonderfully practical booklet "Life: The What, The Who, The Why," which is pertinent to our topic for this issue. The entire booklet is available through Zerubbabel.org.

What About Sin?

The Bible simplifies sin when it makes the bare bones statement that everything not of faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). Or to put it another way, all unbelief is sin. (Unbelief means that we do not believe what God says about us—that as Christians we are joined to Christ, and He is one spirit with us). IN view of this fact, the first thing Satan must accomplish in his effort to get any believe to commit a sinful deed is to tempt him and get him to believe he is an independent self-operating self. In other words, to see himself as an “alone I” or “just me.”

When/if Satan is able to lure us by this lie into the sin of unbelief, he gains the power to boss us on the soul/body level and lead us into any sin deed he chooses. Our union with Christ is not broken; however, our sin temporarily blocks the Holy Spirit from living through us. Confession and repentance on our part is the only way we can receive God's grace and forgiveness and once again walk in the light—in actual fact, have Christ live through us.

The good news is that we can avoid the Satan sin trap by simply remembering

and, if necessary, stating the truth that thoughts and feelings are not the real us. They are factual but not real in the eternal Spirit sense. This is the way the Bible says it: *The things that are seen are temporal [fleeting] and the things that are not seen are eternal [everlasting]* (2 Cor. 4:18). I am not saying that we are to ignore our thoughts and feelings. To the contrary, it is very important that we look at them honestly, and if necessary, talk about them to someone, but as quickly as possible, move past them and begin to reflect on who we are in our spirit center—we joined to Christ rather than how we feel.

Paul uses the marriage analogy in Romans Chapter Seven to help clarify this issue. He says in this passage that we must consciously enter into the reality of not only our cut-off from our old husband Satan, but also our marriage to our new husband Jesus Christ. Until we do this, we will remain under the illusion that we are independent. This puts us, unknowingly, under the outer control of our old husband Satan. And as a result, defeat and guilt are our lot.

For do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives,

she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God (Romans 7:1-4).

How Temptation Really Works

The above applies to me in relation to my writing this booklet. In spite of the fact that I have known from the beginning that the task of writing this is something I have been commissioned to do, I have been plagued with the feelings of inadequacy and fear of being unable to do it. And not to be left out, my thoughts go hand in hand with my feelings—I think over and over, “I am not good at writing; this is too hard so I will just quit and leave the writing to those who are good at it.” Along with thoughts like this, I feel very inadequate and fearful to attempt such a task.

Satan tried to use this approach when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness (John 4:1-11). He began his discourse with Jesus, not as we would expect, tempting Him with food (Jesus was hungry because he had fasted for forty days) or with power. He tempted Him with pride. Satan preceded all his specific temptation with this piercing statements: *If you are who*

you say you are, you can turn these stones into bread or you can throw yourself off the temple and God will send angels to save you.

Jesus could have come back with, “Of course *I* am who *I* say *I* am; *I* am the Christ, the Son of the living God”—the “*I*” meaning that HE had what it took in and of Himself to do what Satan tempted Him to do and go Satan’s self-for-self way. The truth, and He made it quite clear, is that He and His Father are One, and He does only what He sees His Father do (John 14:10). His strengths and His abilities are operated only in love for others, just as are those of His Father.

Let’s pick up where we left off a couple paragraphs back with our discussion of my problem writing this paper. Is my struggle with what I am thinking and feeling? Or do I have a much bigger problem? Look at my sentence for a minute: “I am incapable of getting my thoughts organized and written down and I feel inadequate and fearful.”

Remember that Satan begins all temptation by trying to get us to see ourselves as independent or, “just me.” But as we have said again and again, there is no independent or just me individual in the universe. For that reason the answer to the question is obviously NO! Nevertheless, if I continue to repeat Satan’s lies, I put myself in danger of disobediently crossing the line from being tempted to believe I am independent to actually believing I am. If/when I do this, I commit the original sin of unbelief. This gives Satan the freedom to take control of me on the soul level, thus blocking Christ from living HIs life in and through me. At the same time, Satan gains the freedom to misuse me through my members (body/soul).

Avoiding the Sin Trap

The course of action I must take to avoid this Satan trap is very simple, but not easy to do, because it takes my giving up my idea of the situation and saying that I am wrong. Next, I stop saying all the negative things to myself that I have been saying, and instead I say the truth about myself—and that is, “If I am Jesus Christ in my particular form and He is my operator, then what I am thinking and believing about my inability to organize and write down my thoughts cannot be true.”

What I am thinking and believing may be the way things appear to my human senses, but they are merely appearances, and we are admonished in Scripture not to judge by appearances (John 7:24). I must look through appearances to what is true in the realm of spirit. This is how Jesus lived. He saw past the outer human need to HIs Father, the total supply, though invisible to the human eye, right in the midst of the negative circumstance.

Next, I begin to say by faith (none of it will be fact at this stage) what I know to be real in the realm of the Spirit. The truth is that Jesus Christ through me can write anything that He wants to write as long as He is the one in control of my life. As we discussed earlier, Christ regains His rightful place as Lord (Boss) of my life when I confess my sin of unbelief and then affirm and stand in the truth: that Jesus Christ, who is my spirit operator, can and will do it through me. My responsibility is to trust Him to do so and not give up, but to continue writing.

What to Do About the Turmoil of Feelings

To go over this one last time in hopes that this further discussion will help you become very quick in dealing with your

thoughts and feelings, here is an example that I hope will help you.

We say that we are shy or fearful or smart or ugly (use your own example). Let’s pick “shy” and write it out: “I am a shy person. I have all the traits that portray someone who is shy. I have always been this way. I have been told I was shy since I was a small child.” All this is true on the body-soul level, and Satan has been free to live out shyness because my wrong believing about myself has given him the freedom to do so. But (and it is a big but) the truth is that I know that my operator is Jesus Christ and the shy label that I have put on myself is a lie.

The truth is that Christ is not shy. If He is sometimes quiet in me, that is His business. At the same time, I may be *feeling* shy, but you now know that is just a soul feeling and it has no reality on the spirit level. I speak the truth when I say, “I am feeling shy, or afraid, lonely, or superior, or smarter, but these are all feelings and they are not who and what Jesus Christ, who is my operator, is.” We must not think we are off-course when the feelings continue, which in all likelihood they will. We simply focus on who we are and pay as little attention to our feelings as possible.

It is crucial that we understand that sin never begins with a deed; consequently, our root problem is never our deeds. Deeds are merely the symptoms of a deeper hidden problem. But Satan has done an excellent job of tricking us and keeping us from getting to the root of sin. Because of his deception, we always concentrate on the symptom. This keeps our attention off the source of sin, which is believing Satan’s lie that I am *just me* and that I can and do operate independently of God. ■

FOUND

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receive the fullness of the Spirit when we are born again. What I hadn't known then was that I was not a "just me" running my own life—no one is. We are vessels—Satan-operated before I was saved, replaced by Jesus Christ when I was saved. I was run by the "false god" (John 8:44) for so many years before I was born again. Satan's lies were well worn paths in my mind.

So I began day by day, week by week to replace Satan's "old tapes" with God's word. There is not and never was a "just me" walking alongside Jesus. No! "He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit" (1 Cor 6:17).

Part of this journey was the conviction of a self-righteousness that I had lived from. I may have been spared a blatant outward sin life, but my self-righteousness and judging others wasn't any better than others' outward rebellion; both are equally sin. I confessed to God my "hidden" sins, asking for His forgiveness and asked the forgiveness of those I had judged.

Until we see and admit the depth of our sin, we cannot "out" Satan/Mr. Sin and function as the clear, clean vessel of God we were created to be. Now I could have *true* fellowship with God and with my brothers and sisters in Christ: "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Christ cleanses us of all sin." (1 John 1:7).

By faith, I dared to believe that what Jesus Christ said of me was true—I am joined to Him, one spirit (1 Cor.6:17), and in Him I am whole and complete (Col.2:10). I no longer lived from my feelings of inadequacy—but called them what they are: "just feelings," not fact. I dared to step out in faith in every area of my life: completing a university degree (something I couldn't do years ago),

daring to step up and take opportunities that advanced my banking career, and breaking new ground in my art and in my sport (in a right way).

Looking back, I know that God provided me with all I needed—an earthly father who gave me what I physically needed and was God's perfect provision for me. Now HE is my father and mother through my brothers and sisters in Christ who shared not only this truth but their lives/His love—they loved me, admonished me in love when I needed it and built me up in so many innumerable ways. In my spirit-union with Jesus Christ I have found my place—no longer "lost" but complete in Christ. I know who I am.

I encourage you who are reading this to view "Freedom of the Spirit, Part 1" available on YouTube. I'm sure much of what he says will resonate with you as it did with me. You will also find more of Norman Grubb's teachings available in written, audio, and video formats online at intercessor.org. ■

The Origin of Evil

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God is the Person. Evil is a created person who chose to be the opposite to God, and is called the god of this world because he brought into manifestation the opposite form of personhood. Sin is the root and sins are the product.

God's Convenient Agent

But what we are to note as we continue to trace humanity's history is that this evil one, called Lucifer, and Satan, is still and forever a rebel son, recorded in Job as among the sons of God presenting themselves to Him. He is still God's servant, though in rebellion, and still does God's

ANSWERS TO SATAN— GOD'S CONVENIENT AGENT

ACROSS

2. DETERMINED
8. RIGHTEOUSNESS
10. TEMPLE
11. HIGH
12. CAIN
13. DEVIL
14. ALIVE
15. GOD

DOWN

1. KNOWETH
3. LIGHT
4. DEATH
5. DEAD
6. SUBMIT
7. EVIL
9. SATAN
12. CRUCIFIED



will, and has his being in God, as all the universe had. This is important because owing to the illusory sense of separation from God which the Fall has given us, we find it difficult to recognize that Satan is not some separated person who goes about and does as he wills, and we have to, in a way, call on God to go and find and handle him. No, he is God's negative agent and we shall see how wonderfully he is God's convenient agent, and we learn to see through Satan to the One in full control of him, if we are to get all the distortions of life into focus. ■

—Who Am I?

Faith Notes

When even Satan is only God's agent, and evil men only fulfilling His foreordained plan (Acts 4:27, 28), then we can start off by praising God for adversity, and counting it (not feeling it) "all joy when ye fall into divers trials." That means we have transferred our attention from the situation and our natural dislike of it, to its underlying source, and we only do that by the act of faith.

—God Unlimited

A great many of our unsolved problems find their answers as we continually differentiate between soul reactions and spirit fixed condition, and replace the soul disturbances by recognition of our true being as He.

—Yes, I Am

We are free, because we know ourselves as nothing but the expresser, vessel, branch, temple, body member and slave of the Deity self, His Spirit joined to our spirits.

—No Independent Self

Satan flees (James 4:7). I resist him by replacing false belief in him by true belief in who I really am—Christ as me. Light swallows up dark. We don't fight the dark; we recognize its right to exist, but we replace it by turning on the light.

—No Independent Self

We replace all negatives (without condemnation for feeling the pull of them, and thus accepting Satan's right to pull) with the positives of Christ as us, and we as expressions of God as love, power, peace—recognizing who we are, Him as us, and we loving as He loves, walking as He walks, overcoming our world as He did by faith...

—To All Believers...It's as Simple as This

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"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

– 1 John 3:8
(King James Version)

Words to Live By...

"...the devil himself being really God's convenient agent for good, we learn to see through our plentiful negative situations, and thus help others to do the same...we persistently and boldly affirm that God means just that, and my only sin is not believing that He is my God and Father of love when it appears, and indeed is, an operation of the devil himself. Then as I believe against all appearances, and not lightly or easily, I have the inner calm of being able to accept an evil thing as from God."

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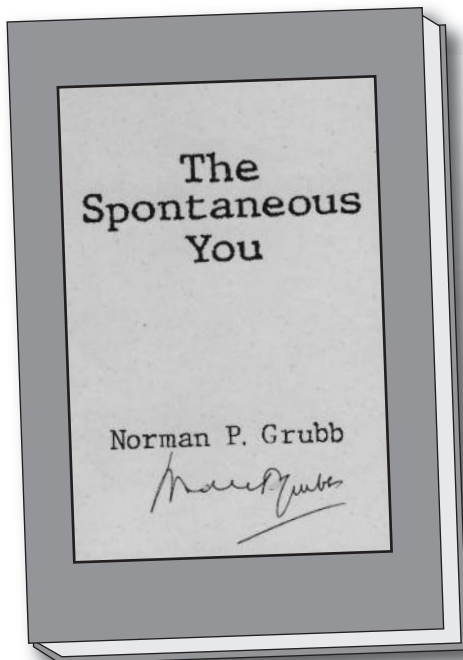
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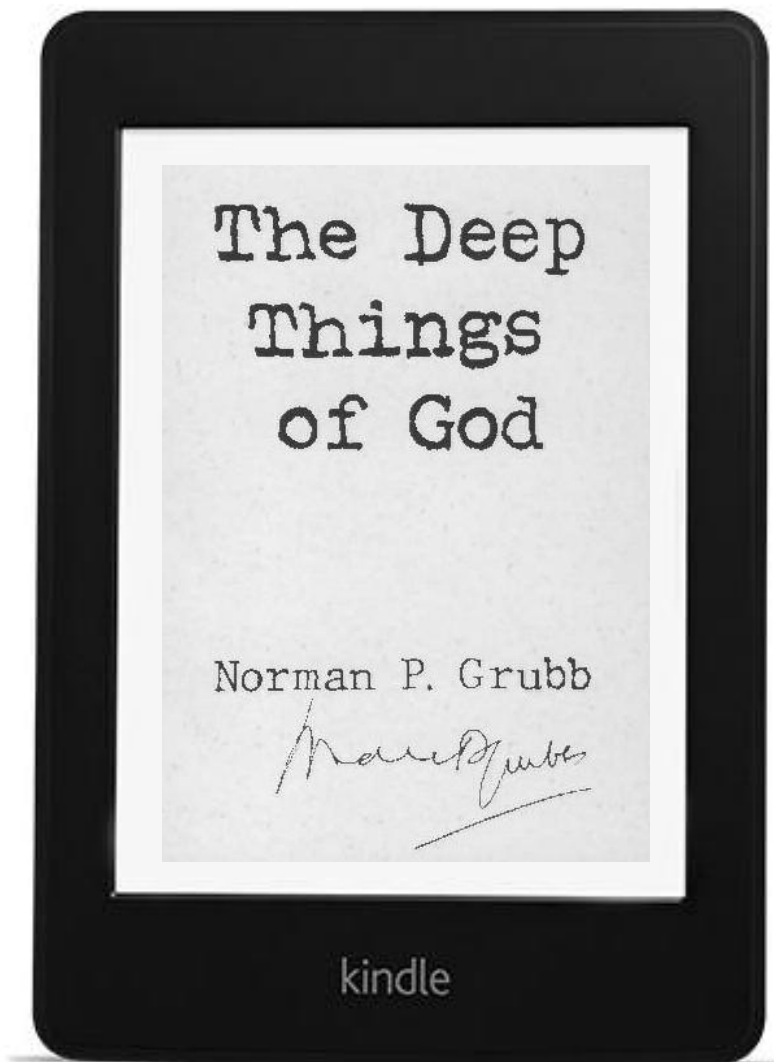
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