

NO AUTOMATIC IMMUNIZATION

By V. P. Wierwille

Most fundamental, Bible-believing Christians believe that once they are born again of God's spirit the adversary (Satan, the Devil) cannot touch them. They believe that he has no influence over them, that he cannot do anything to them because they are Christ's. Now if that is not about the height of stupidity, I would like to know what is the height of stupidity! That is just what the adversary wants, because if he can keep us blind, he can keep us stupid, and he has done such a masterful job that there is hardly anybody in the Christian believing field today who knows the basic principles that are the groundwork on which the adversary lives and operates in people's lives. This idea that simply because you are a Christian nothing can touch you is a trick of the adversary.

I John 4:4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

This is literally true from the moment that you are born again, and yet that is not seen in the lives of Christian believers consistently, so there is either something wrong with God's Word or with our understanding. Well, I want to tell you there is nothing wrong with God's Word, it has been in our misunderstanding, or lack of understanding, regarding the truth of it.

Christians have gone around and said, "Well, greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world," and thought that this immunized them against the adversary. That is exactly what has been taught, that we as Christians had a spiritual immunization, that the adversary could not get to a Christian. I would call it "Automatic Immunization", because people think that if they are born again, then they are automatically immunized against the adversary, that they automatically are protected. If we are automatically immunized and automatically protected simply because greater is he that is in us than the adversary who is in the world, then you have got to explain how the adversary gets such an advantage of Christians time and time again. It is simply a trick of the adversary to get Christians to believe that they are automatically immunized and that nothing can hurt them; so then, he can just come and defeat them because they go along and think, "Oh, I'm automatically immunized," yet all the time they are getting beaten down. He just keeps fooling Christians like this.

Ephesians 1:3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.

He has blessed us, so Christians go around and say: "Well, look I'm blessed! I'm blessed with all spiritual blessings! I've got Christ! He that's in me is greater than he that's in the world! I got all the blessings!" And so, they think that they are immunized against the adversary, that he cannot touch them. Christians think this simply because they read it in a verse of Scripture, but reading something and making it your own is as different as can be. To say that we believe and to actually believe is sometimes as different as day and night.

Verse 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

Christians read that and say: "Well, He chose us; I did not have anything to do with it, therefore I am His. The adversary cannot touch us Christians."

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Verse 8: Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

They say, "We have got all of it, therefore the adversary cannot touch the Christian."

Verse 9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.

"We know His Mystery, therefore the adversary cannot touch us." This is what Christians say.

Ephesians 2:10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Therefore they say: "Well, if we're His workmanship, the adversary can't touch us. We are God's workmanship."

Verse 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and [now we are] of the household of God.

"And, if you're of the household of God, the adversary can't touch you," they say.

Ephesians 3:20: Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

And the scripture says that God is at work within us to will and to do of His good pleasure, therefore they say, "Oh, the adversary cannot touch the Christian." That is not true!

Colossians 2:9 and 10: For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him

And so they say: "Well, if we are complete in him, the adversary cannot get into that completeness. Therefore, the Christian simply cannot be controlled or possessed or taken over by the adversary."

Let us delve into God's Word and find out some of what it tells us about what the adversary is.

John 14:30: Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

Here he is called "the prince of this world".

II Corinthians 4:4: In whom the god of this world....

In John he is "the prince of this world", and here it says he is "the god of this world".

Ephesians 6:11: Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

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"The wiles of the devil." The word "wiles" means "cunning, crafty, sly".

II Corinthians 11:3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The adversary is referred to as the serpent and as being subtle. He is "the prince of this world"; he is "the god of this world"; he is "the serpent" showing his subtlety and slyness.

Verse 14: And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

If the adversary ever came to the Christian and portrayed himself like he really is, the Christian would not have anything to do with him. He has to get to the Christian subtly, slyly. He has to get to the Christian to say, "Has God really said?", as he did to Eve in Genesis. Then he has to get the Christian to omit a word, add a word, change a word. When he finally has him hung then he can say, "God is all wrong." But, the adversary never says this at the beginning. He would not dare to say it even half-way through, because if the adversary showed himself and declared his intentions to the Christian believer, the Christian would not have anything to do with him. He has got to work the Christian around to the place where he finally gets the Christian so engrossed that he is not even cognizant mentally that the adversary has engrossed him.

I Thessalonians 2:18: Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

In addition to those things that we have already read, the adversary is a hinderer.

I Thessalonians 3:5: For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

There he is called "the tempter".

Ephesians 2:2: 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.

In John 14:30 he is called "prince of this world" and here he is called "prince of the power of the air", thus he is prince of both.

I Peter 5:8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The adversary roars to freeze us in our tracks so that we do not do anything for God, like a lion does to freeze his prey in its tracks before he springs.

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Revelation 19: 19: And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

There he is referred to as a "beast". He is not a very kind-hearted fellow; he is a beast.

I John 5:18: We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

There he is called "the wicked one". There are many more in the Bible, but these are some of the great ones in the Bible that tell you what the adversary is.

Luke 4:12: And Jesus answering said unto him [the Devil, the adversary], It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Jesus said to him; him who? The adversary. If Jesus was not immune to the adversary, do you think you and I will be? Do you think any Christian is going to be immune? Do you think there is automatic immunization?

Since he is the prince of the air and he is the god of this world, he arranges circumstances and situations so that when people come to them they are impressed by the situations and by the circumstances which he has altered to suit himself. He is always after God and His people, so he cuts the Word to pieces, because the Word is the only thing that gives an accurate knowledge of the true God and of the desires that He has for His children.

II Corinthians 12:7: And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Paul's thorn in the flesh was people. The people were the thorns in the flesh; the people were the messengers of Satan; they were the ones who buffeted Paul's ministry.

II Corinthians 11:3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

In the adversary's use of situations and conditions he gets to people's minds.

Verse 3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The minds are corrupted. That is how he gets the ground prepared, he corrupts our minds. How does he do this? He does not come and say, "Well, I'm taking over today." No, no, no, no! If he did, he would be rejected. He organizes the world, situations and circumstances so that as people walk day by day they are walking right into his workings and so it gets to the place where their minds become corrupted. Instead of following the simplicity that is in Christ, the minds of Christians have been

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corrupted by what they hear, see, smell, taste and touch in the world that is round about, through people or situations that the adversary has arranged.

Matthew 16:23: But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but, those that be of men.

Jesus said to Peter, "Get thee behind me, Satan," for you are "an offence unto me", and yet Peter was one of his right-hand men. It was Peter, James and John whom he took along on the Mount of Transfiguration and when he went in to raise the young girl mentioned in the Gospels. And yet, to that same Peter at another time he said, "Get thee behind me, Satan." The adversary operates through people, circumstances, the environment or situations which influence people. The reason that he organizes people, circumstances, the environment or situations is to get to people. Jesus had to say to Peter, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Who had influenced Peter? The adversary.

I Thessalonians 2:18: Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

"We would have come unto you," Paul said, "but Satan hindered us." Paul was wanting to go, but the adversary hindered. He obstructed through people, situations, environment, whatever was involved, that kept them from going.

Acts 5:3: But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

"Why did the adversary fill your mind?" How did the adversary do that? Everybody was bringing their plurality and laying it at the apostles' feet. Joses, the Levite, had sold his single possession and laid the money at the apostles' feet. The adversary organized things in such a way that Ananias was influenced. "If I would sell that one property that I have and lay that money at the feet of the apostles, look what advantage I would have, because they only sold their plurality. If I really went all out and sold that one single " How do you think the adversary influenced him? These people were selling their plurality so he started Ananias thinking: "How can I promote myself? How can I get myself at the top of this thing?" And Peter said to him by revelation, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?.."

Matthew 13:19: When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

A man listens to the teaching of the Word and it is sown in his mind, but if he does not understand it to the end that he walks on it then the adversary comes and he catches it away. This is a description of the Word and how this Word falls in different places and the reactions to it. There is only one thing that ever keeps any of us from not being controlled by the adversary, and that is the knowledge of God's Word that we have and that we walk on. A person can have a tremendous knowledge of God's Word, but if he does not walk on it, he will still faint in the mind and the adversary will snatch it away.

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The adversary cannot get in the spirit of one who is born again, for it is eternal life, incorruptible seed. But, the adversary is the god of this world and so he influences people, circumstances, the environment or situations, and the born-again believer still has body and soul and is in this world. He lives in this world. He eats in this world. He sleeps in this world. He breathes in this world. He travels in this world. If he is not taught God's Word, or if he does not believe it, the adversary will get an advantage of him and operate by affecting the mind. The man has freedom of will to believe the adversary's deception or not to believe his deception, and if he chooses to believe his deception, the adversary sees to it that there is more deception presented, and that is just the way that his vicious cycle runs.

If you do not understand formed, made and created, body, soul and spirit, you get lost in the shuffle. After the new birth the mind is still the same, but we have the privilege of putting on the mind of Christ. To the end that we put on the mind of Christ we become more than conquerors; only to that end do we manifest that which we read in Ephesians. We are not automatically immunized simply because we are Christian, but because we are Christian we have the potential, the power, to renew the mind.

Most Christians are still walking for the adversary, because they are as much in the world and the world is as much in them as it is in any other person. They live for what they want. They eat what they want, go where they want, see what they want, do what they want, say what they want, spend their money any way they like, use their time as they please and squander their talents as they will. They are concerned with: "How can I get ahead? This is my life. I can do with it as I please." That is how the door is opened. And all of this is so human; it is just so natural, isn't it? It is just what all of us have done at one time or another, to a lesser or a greater degree. Do you know how to get rid of it? You never get rid of it any other way except in the category of the renewing of the mind, "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" James 4:7 tells us:

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

Do what? Resist him! Resist him! Resist him! You are never going to get rid of him by enjoying his presence or by simply saying to him: "Now look here, I'm a Christian. Please don't do that to me." The only way you can get rid of him is to submit yourself to God and to resist the Devil. You have got to take a very sharp stand, like Jesus did. Do you think Jesus enjoyed saying to Peter, one of his best friends, "Get thee behind me, Satan"?

II Corinthians 10:4 and 5: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

You cannot stop the adversary from coming to your mind, because you are living in the world in which he is boss. He sets the things up using people, circumstances, the environment or situations. You cannot stop him from coming, but you can sure stop him from controlling the mind, because you can pull down the strongholds and deliberately bring into captivity every thought - you control your thinking, and you bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

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Do you know why we think wrong? Because we want to. Do you know why we think bad thoughts about one another? Because we want to. We have got to quit blaming anybody else. We have got to simply say: "Well, I have not brought into captivity my own thinking. I have freedom of will, I can control it. I can think what I want to think."

We have to have a center of reference for truth outside of the individual seeking, and we have come to the conclusion that there is only one center of reference for us, and that is the integrity and accuracy of God's Word, for it means what it says and it, says what it means. This Word of God is our only rule of faith and practice, so we do not go by what people say, by circumstances, by the environment or situations. We can only go by the Word, and to the end that we go to the depth of this Word and bring every thought into captivity we will pull down the strongholds of the adversary, where he will not have the influence over us.

I John 5:4: For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

What is He talking about, "overcometh the world"? The adversary, because he is the god of this world. "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world," provided the latter part of that verse is obeyed: "our faith", and faith is believing. Our believing of God's Word overcomes the adversary.

II Corinthians 2:11: Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

We are not stupid. We know from God's Word how the adversary gets advantage of us. We are not ignorant of his devices. Since we are not ignorant of his devices, if he gets an advantage of us it is because we have given him the freedom to do so.

Most of the fundamental, Bible-believing Christians believe that once they are born again of God's spirit, the adversary (Satan, the Devil) cannot touch them. They believe that he has no influence over them, that he cannot do anything to them because they are Christ's. Now if that is not about the height of stupidity, I would like to know what is the height of stupidity! That is just what the adversary wants, because if he can keep us blind, he can keep us stupid, and he has done such a masterful job that there is hardly anybody in the Christian believing field today who knows the basic principles that are the groundwork on which the adversary lives and operates in people's lives. This idea that simply because you are a Christian nothing can touch you is a trick of the adversary.

There is no "automatic immunization" for the Christian. We do not need to be ignorant of the adversary's devices but we can lead every thought captive and manifest the victory that overcomes the world by our believing of God's wonderful matchless Word.