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a *Grace Notes* course

# The Acts of the Apostles

Section I: Acts 1 to 7

an expositional study  
by Warren Doud

Lesson 12: **Acts 5:1-3**

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## Acts 5:1-3

### Contents

<b>Instructions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Acts 5:1-3</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Acts 5:1.....	2
Acts 5:2.....	2
Acts 5:3.....	3
Chastisement (Divine Discipline).....	7
Sins of the Tongue.....	10
Sin Unto Death .....	12
Pride .....	12
Jealousy .....	15
Satan .....	16
<b>Lesson 12 Quiz</b> .....	<b>20</b>

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## **Instructions**

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

### **Instructions**

1. Study the lesson by reading the passage in ACTS, studying the notes, and studying the other passages of the Bible which are cited. It is a good idea to read the whole book of Acts regularly, perhaps at least once a month. This will give you a good overall view of the events in ACTS.
  2. Study the topics in the same way, paying close attention to all of the Bible verses which are mentioned.
  3. Review all of the notes in the ACTS study and the topics
  4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
  5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to SAVE the file.
  6. Return the completed Quiz to Grace Notes, either by e-mail or regular mail. There are instructions below in the Quiz section.
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**Acts 5:1-3**

This chapter deals with attacks on the church in Jerusalem. Verse 1 to 16 show attacks from within the church, the incident of Ananias and Sapphira. The rest of the chapters, verses 17 to 42, show the attacks from without, by the scribes and Pharisees and other religious rulers.

To understand the concepts being presented in the next verses, it is necessary to understand two related principles, Chastisement and the Sin Unto Death.

Chastisement is administered by God the Father to any Christian who is out of fellowship. And the longer a person stays out of fellowship, the more severe the discipline becomes.

**TOPIC: CHASTISEMENT (DIVINE DISCIPLINE)**

One of the most severe forms of chastisement is meted out to a Christian who engages in "sins of the tongue", including judging, gossiping, maligning, and other similar activities.

Sins of the tongue have their origin in the Sin Nature. These sins are among the most devastating of all of the categories of sin. Of the seven sins mentioned in Proverbs 6:16-19 as being especially hated by God, three are sins of the tongue. Sins of the tongue are motivated by mental sins such as arrogance, jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, hatred, mental adultery, pettiness, envy, guilt feelings, etc.

Sins of the tongue produce several layers of divine discipline. First, there is discipline for the mental attitude sin which motivates the verbal sin. Second, there is discipline for the verbal sin itself. Third, there is discipline for the sins which one assigns to another person in wrongly judging him - "with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again." This severe punishment is compounded by the absolutely appalling misery which the believer brings upon himself by continuing a life pattern of sins of the tongue.

READ Psalm 64:8; Matt. 7:1,2

**TOPIC: SINS OF THE TONGUE**

When God sees that a Christian is completely implacable and unrepentant, He might administer the Sin Unto Death. The phrase "sin unto death" describes the final stage of divine discipline in which God removes from the earth the person who is totally alienated from God.

READ 1 John 5:16, "...there is a sin unto death..."

This is for believers only. God does not chastise unbelievers, and He does not administer the sin unto death to unbelievers.

READ Psalm 118:17,18; Eze. 18:21-32

Seven References to the Sin Unto Death

1. **Achan, Joshua 7.** The case of Ananias and Sapphira is very similar to that of Achan. Achan coveted some of the loot he found in Jericho, some money, some nice clothes, a dagger.
2. **The Corinthian Incest,** 1 Cor. 5:1-5
3. **Carnality at the Lord's Table which continues without confession of sin,** 1 Cor. 11:30,31
4. **Habitual Disobedience to the Word of God,** 1 Chron. 10:13,14
5. **Hezekiah's Maximum Discipline,** Isaiah 38, which involved his depending on Egypt, a foreign policy which ignored the plan and commandments of God.
6. **Any believer entering into apostasy** is vulnerable to the sin unto death, Num. 31:8; 1 Tim. 1:19,20.
7. **Lying to the Holy Spirit,** Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-17. This is the sin of false motivation.

There are three characteristics of the sin unto death.

1. Unconfessed sin is the general cause for shortening the life of the believer. There are two reasons people fail to confess their sins. The first reason is ignorance of the Bible teaching about confession; many believers have received no teaching on the subject, either because they don't attend church, or

because the church doesn't teaching doctrine. The other reason people don't confess sins is rejection of the Grace principle; either by injecting some legalistic activity into the process of trying to get into fellowship, or by discounting the grace teaching that has been given.

2. It is a sin which continues unchecked, and from which the believer does not separate, per Heb. 12:15.
3. It is a sin which has a maximum adverse effect on others, as in the case of 1 Cor. 5:2.

It is important for the Christian to understand the circumstances under which sins are *not* "unto death".

First, sin which is confessed is not "unto death". 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 11:31; Ps. 32:5; Ps. 38.

Second, sin which is discontinued is not "unto death". Heb. 12:1; Eze. 18:21-32.

Finally, the person who responds positively to divine discipline is not involved in the "sin unto death". Heb. 12:6, cf. 12:11-15.

### TOPIC: SIN UNTO DEATH

#### Acts 5:1

**But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,**

Ananias – (CHANANIYAH) = “the grace, or mercy, of God.” He didn't really live up to what his parents might have expected.

We have no other record of this Christian couple.

**man** – (ANER) = “noble man” – this word was often used to refer to Christians, as distinguished from the general word for man (ANTHROPOS).

Here was a married couple that were wealthy. They had some possessions that could be sold, and in verse 3 we see that what they sold was land. Another thing that was unusual was that both of these people were believers. They had accepted Christ at some point in the recent past, perhaps as a result of one of Peter's sermons.

They sold a substantial piece of property; large enough to cause notice. They may have been very wealthy, owning property in Jerusalem.

They were almost certainly influenced by the attention being paid to Barnabas. The gift of Barnabas, in chapter 4, is actually part of this chapter. After all, Barnabas' gift was so generous that the apostles themselves gave him his new name, “Son of Encouragement.”

Many people get serious heartburn when they see someone else getting praise recognition. Here, jealousy raises it's ugly head.

#### Acts 5:2

**And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet.**

Note: there was no requirement to give the whole price to the apostles. We see that in verse 4, where Peter reminds Ananias that his property and his money were always his to do with what he pleased. But Ananias and Sapphira were motivated by the desire for recognition. They did not sin because they only gave part of the money; they sinned by lying about their gift.

The great problem here is that jealousy, and the troubles and sins that it creates, is one of the most destructive elements in a local church environment.

1. This was an inside sin, committed by believers.
2. It was not a sin of omission – that is, they did not refuse to give to the Lord.
3. It was a sin motivated by a lust for personal recognition and approval. They wanted to be seen as duplicating what Barnabas had done.
4. It was a sin of competition. Ananias and Sapphira were competing with Barnabas, vying for the recognition of other believers.
5. Behind their intense desire for praise were envy and jealousy.
6. They failed to serve as unto the Lord. **Col. 3:17**, “And whatever you do in word or deed,

<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>3</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 12</b>	a Grace Notes study

do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

7. There was nothing wrong with keeping back part of the price of the sale. There are never any regulations about how much a believer should give. Their sin was in telling the lie, motivated by jealousy.
8. They lied to the Spirit, because they wanted the church to think they had duplicated the giving of Barnabas.
9. The lust for approbation causes believers to serve in the energy of the flesh, and to produce human good rather than divine good.

**TOPIC: JEALOUSY**

**his wife also being privy to it** – this is an older English expression meaning that his wife was in on the secret with him.

**and laid it at the apostles’ feet** – this was cash, metal money, probably in the leather bags which were common for carrying money in those days.

**Acts 5:3**

**But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land?**

**TOPIC: SATAN**

How did Peter know about this? There is no indication that God revealed this to Peter directly. It may be that Peter knew how much Ananias property was worth; or someone else may have told Peter about the transaction.

Neither Satan or any demon can indwell, or possess, any Christian believer. However, Satan can put thoughts into the mind of a believer, especially when a believer has a great desire for approbation. Ananias’ motives originated with Satan; they are a part of Satan’s system of doctrine by which he convinces people of lies.

**NOTES ON EPHESIANS 4:17-19:**

The following paragraphs are a detailed study of Ephesians 4:17 to 19, designed to show that Christians are warned to maintain their close relationship with the Lord, in order not to open

themselves up to the influence of Satan and his doctrines.

**Ephesians 4:17**

**This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.**

This passage of Ephesians, verses 17 to 19, is probably the strongest and most graphic warning to Christians in the New Testament!

Paul issues this warning now because he knows that the great results of the previous verses depend on the personal choices that people make in the Christian life.

In this passage we are shown that it is possible for a Christian to have a darkened spirit (soul), an understanding that is like that of an unbeliever (other Gentiles), and the empty soul that has no spiritual understanding in it.

And we are also shown that it is completely unnecessary for any of us to have these problems. But as long as we live we are dependent on doctrine from the Word of God and on our day-to-day resolve to learn Bible truth at the feet of those the Lord has provided as communicators.

The developed Christian life in Grace is supposed to lead to maturity, edification, and effective function, as described in 4:11-16. But when a Christian's understanding is darkened, he becomes sensitive to the opinions of other people, his self-consciousness leads him to flail around in a hundred directions. Self-consciousness leads to self-pity, then bitterness and implacability.

But God has ordained a system for getting Bible truth into the believer, via the public proclamation of the Word of God and the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is incumbent upon every believer to keep himself on track by staying in God's plan for spiritual growth.

**"THIS I SAY, THEREFORE"**

"This" is a reference to the statements which follow, comments on the subject of insensitivity, obtuseness, and indifference in the soul.

Indifference to the Word of God is a Christian's greatest occupational hazard. The apostle warns about the hardness of soul which is the direct

result of failure to obtain Bible teaching and spiritual understanding.

The first hints about the problems of immaturity are brought out in Eph. 4:14. Immature Christians are "children", gullible, pushed about by every phony idea that comes along ("winds of doctrine"), and easily fooled by crafty imitators.

Everyone begins the Christian life as a novice; we all started our Christian walk as "babes in Christ." A new believer is expected to be naive, to behave as a "child", and not to know how to function as an "adult." Young children have to grow up.

But the spiritual "babe" needs to take in spiritual food every day in order to grow. Otherwise, the effects of spiritual malnutrition will be obvious for everyone to see. Verses 11 to 16 tell us how to grow up spiritually and function like adults. Verses 17 to 19 verses show what happens to Christians who do not follow the Lord's plan for growth.

**"and testify in the Lord"** - a use of the verb MARTUREW, "to make a solemn appeal".

Paul is very concerned for his Ephesian friends and colleagues. In his wide travels he has seen every kind of dysfunctional Christian. He knows what Christians need for Christian growth and spiritual health, and he knows how easy it is for indifference to develop. He begs his friends not to "walk as other Gentiles walk".

### **"THAT YOU WALK NOT AS OTHER GENTILES WALK"**

"walk" refers to the pattern of life a person follows. Chapter 4 began with his exhortation to "walk worthy of the vocation to which you are called." And he continues in chapter 5 with "Therefore, be followers of God, as dear children, and walk in love..."

"Gentiles" is ETHNEI, the plural of ETHNOS, "a nation; a people". Here the reference is to the rest of the "general population" who have not accepted Christ as Savior. Paul is pointing out that if a Christian has deadness of soul, his manner of life will exactly resemble that of the unbeliever.

**1 Cor. 3:3, "For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and**

**strife, and divisions, are you not carnal, and walk as men?"**

Christians are supposed to be distinguished by their walk. But there are believers, just as there are unbelievers, who are moral or immoral, religious or irreligious, self-righteous and legalistic, living in overt sin or not, in short having nothing to distinguish them from other people.

Now begins the statement of the main problem in Christianity and in individual Christians' lives.

### **"IN THE VANITY OF THEIR MIND"**

"Vanity" is the Greek word MATAIOTEIS, "emptiness; vain; fruitless; without profit".

A believer who is occupied with Christ and living in the Word is constantly "renewing his mind" by a process in which he continually takes in (inhales) the Word of God and exercises the Word (exhales). Let's read ahead...

**Eph. 4:22-24, That you put off concerning the former manner of life the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND, and that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

The apostle Paul makes a very similar plea to the Christians in Rome in Romans 12.

**Romans 12:1,2, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

The opposite of a RENEWED mind is an EMPTY mind.

A negative Christian "exhales", that is, he thinks, speaks, and acts based on the contents of his mind. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." However, because he does not "inhale" the Word of God, he can only "exhale" his own ideas, his own

doctrines, or the ideas and doctrines that he has picked up from whatever sources in the world.

When a soul is empty, there is a resulting "vacuum" that pulls in false doctrines, doctrines of demons, darkness. Satan has a complete system of false theology to be used to ensnare the novice, the unprotected, the gullible. Today these doctrines may be any system of religion, existentialism, communism, or any other non-biblical proposition. Into the "vacuum" will go misery, mental attitude sins, religion, legalism, emphasis on details of life, human viewpoint, and so forth.

**1 Tim. 4:1-3, Now the Spirit speaks expressly that, in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving by them who believe and KNOW THE TRUTH.**

"of their mind" - NOUS. This word is a reference to the mind as a container of the thoughts of the soul. The phrase is not "...vanity of thoughts" but "...emptiness of the mind, the container of thoughts."

The verb equivalent to NOUS is NOEW, "to think". The noun, therefore, means "place of thinking". Both these words are used extensively in the Greek New Testament; and both words are used with various prefixes to indicate different kinds of thinking.

For example, DIANOIA is DIA + NOUS. DIA is the preposition "through", so DIANOIA are thoughts moving "through the mind", or simply "active thoughts." This is used in Eph. 4:18.

In another example, the Greeks had an expression for changing one's thoughts, METANOIA, the "changing of the mind." This word was translated "repentance" in the King James Version, and the word "repent" 17th Century England meant "to rethink" or to change one's mind about something. The change in idiom in modern times has resulted in a lot of confusion about repentance; but

repentance is simply changing one's mind, reversing previous thinking.

Verse 17 reads, then, "This is say, therefore, and make a solemn warning in the Lord that your manner of life is not to be as the Gentiles manner of life, in the emptiness of the mentality of the soul."

**Ephesians 4:18**

**"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;"**

"Understanding" is DIANOIA, the activity of thinking in the soul.

READ Isa. 55:7-9, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, says the Lord ..."

There are two types of active thinking [DIANOIA] that are available to a Christian.

The first type is called DARKNESS and refers both to satanic thoughts and human viewpoint.

**Col. 1:21, And you that were once alienated and enemies in mind by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled."**

**2 Cor. 10:5, Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**

And from 1 Tim. 4:1, "...doctrines of demons"

The opposite type of active thinking is DOCTRINE, which is the Word of God active in the mind of the believer.

Again - the way a believer sets himself up for trouble and darkness in the soul is to NEGLECT BIBLE TEACHING. It happens when one is too busy, apathetic, antagonistic toward doctrine, or antagonistic toward the teacher of doctrine.

"darkness" is SKOTIDZW, "to shroud in darkness; to be benighted; to bring about moral obscurity."

The process of darkness: the Christian who is negative toward Bible truth opens up his soul and empties it; satanic doctrines occupy the soul by

moving into the vacuum. There are scores of repercussions; here are eight of them.

1. Darkness causes a Christian to fail to orient to the plan of God. He does not know God's plan or how it works, and he does not know how he fits into God's plan.
2. Darkness brings about a failure to orient to the grace of God. The result is arrogance and legalism, lack of forgiveness, lack of graciousness.
3. Darkness causes inner misery, unhappiness, lack of peace. These things cannot be compensated for by anything in life, but the negative Christian spends his life in a frantic but futile pursuit of happiness through the details of life.
4. Darkness can bring about neuroses and psychoses.

**Phil. 4:6,7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard [STABILIZE] your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

5. Darkness results in a frantic search for happiness through details of life, or through some form of sublimation.
6. Darkness leads to slavery to the details of life. Sins may grow out of legitimate things in life (money, success, pleasure, sex, social life, family, loved ones, career, hobbies, health, status symbols).
7. Darkness leads to apostasy, erroneous thinking, false doctrine in the soul.
8. Darkness is accompanied by a lack of capacity to love, leading to pseudo-love towards God, family, the community.

"being alienated from the life of God" - the perfect passive participle of APALLOTRIOW, "to alienate".

Disorientation to the plan of God is a result of darkness. A Christian can live his whole life on this earth and always be out of phase with God's plan for his life. This can go on indefinitely as long as the believer refuses to hear and believe the Word of God.

All of this is caused by...

"through the ignorance that is in them" - DIA plus AGNOIA. "By means of" or "because of" the "ignorance" that is in them.

This word is, literally, "no thinking". The Greek word describes someone who is ignorant of the content of something that he is supposed to know. To "ignore" means "not to think about".

Therefore, the Christian in darkness either has not learned Bible doctrine, or he does not think of the Bible doctrine to which he has been exposed. So he lives in darkness. Without knowledge of the Word of God it is impossible to orient to God's plan of Grace. When a believer lacks knowledge and edification he is out of step with the plan of God.

"in them" refers to believers who have darkness in their souls.

"because of the blindness of their hearts"

"Blindness" is POROSIS, which is a direct cognate of the English word "porosis". POROSIS means "callous" or "something which has hardened or petrified". It is used for the buildup of scars from multiple wounds in the same place, hence "scar tissue."

So verse 18 reads, "Having become darkened in thinking, having been alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the callous on their heart."

So, in verses 17 and 18, all the ingredients for soul blackness have been presented:

1. Negative volition towards Bible truth
2. The resulting callous (scar tissue) on the soul
3. The opening up of the vacuum (emptiness) of the soul
4. Darkness in the soul
5. Subjectivity
6. Alienation from the life of God.

Ephesians 4:19

"Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

Remember - Paul is warning Christians not to fall into this lifestyle. It is easy to associate a sinful manner of living with non-Christians. But Christians who live apart from the plan of God can easily be involved in "Gentile" lasciviousness or uncleanness.

"Who" is a relative pronoun referring to people who have callous on their souls, who are negative toward Bible teaching.

"being past feeling" is APALGEO, "to cease to feel anything; to become calloused". Callous develops from failure to learn and appropriate the Word of God. For the negative Christian, callous remains on the soul and accumulates, resulting in a lack of feeling. In other words, his situation continually gets worse.

Darkness of the soul is characterized by mental attitude sins, such as arrogance, bitterness, jealousy, worry, vindictiveness, implacability.

The antidote is first, Confession of Sin; then, Occupation with Christ and Living in the Word.

"have given themselves over unto lasciviousness". Literally, "have betrayed themselves into immoral sexual activity"

"to work all uncleanness" - or, "to make a profession of impurity".

"with greediness" - this is the frantic search for happiness through the details of life. Because details of life cannot satisfy, the search becomes more and more intense, resulting in greediness.

Greediness is the willingness to do something immoral, illegal, or harmful to other people in order to obtain something one desires. The Christian life removes greediness because a believer trusts God to supply all needs and has the patience to wait for God's timing in everything.

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Now – continuing the study of Acts 5:3.

There are five sins described in the New Testament which are said to be specifically sins against the Holy Spirit.

**Resisting the Holy Spirit** – found in **Acts 7:51**, "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit, as your fathers did, so do ye." This is the sin of rejecting

the Gospel, so it can only be committed by an unbeliever.

**Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – Matt.**

**12:31**, "Wherefore, I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven men." Again, this sin is committed by unbelievers, and amounts to a rejection of the Gospel, of which the Holy Spirit has a part in communicating.

**Grieving the Holy Spirit – Eph. 4:30**, "Grieve not the Spirit of God..." This can only be committed by believers, and any sin in the life is equivalent to grieving the Holy Spirit.

**Quenching the Holy Spirit – I Thess. 5:19** This is the sin of performing human good, that is, moral good deeds which are done by a Christian who is out of fellowship.

**Lying to the Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3.** Stimulated by jealousy and the lust for approbation, the believer lies to the Holy Spirit.

**Chastisement (Divine Discipline)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Whom the Lord loves, He chastens, whether it is an individual, a city or community, or a nation. Because God loves the whole world, there has always been a lot of chastening going on. The history of the Jews as a nation is, in part, a story of the cycles of discipline and recovery they experienced throughout all their generations. There are many parallel lessons to be learned by individual believers regarding the way the Lord handles the individual and nation in Grace when either is disobedient.

**CHASTISEMENT (DIVINE DISCIPLINE) OF THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER**

Chastisement of individuals is for believers only (HEB. 12:5). God's discipline is based on love, and when a believer is out of fellowship, discipline is aimed at only one thing, to get the believer to acknowledge his sin to God, to confess in order to be restored to fellowship (HEB. 12:6).

Discipline never means a loss of salvation (GAL. 3:26; HEB. 12:6). Divine discipline is

<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>8</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 12</b>	a Grace Notes study

chastisement for sins of the believer in the immediate context of the sin that was committed. And discipline is removed by Biblical confession of sin (1 JOHN 1:9; 1 COR. 11:31), "...if we judge ourselves...".

Suffering may well be part of the chastisement, and confession does not remove the suffering. However, when suffering continues after the believer has been restored to fellowship, the cursing is turned to blessing; that is, the suffering is for a positive purpose.

If a believer continues in sin and refuses to repent and confess, the chastisement will become more and more severe. Certain sins bring compounded discipline, particularly those in which the believer is acting as a stumbling block to others (MATT. 7:1-12). In extreme cases, the believer could suffer the Sin Unto Death. However, all chastisement is confined to time; there will be no discipline for believers in eternity (REV. 21:4)

The believer can avoid divine discipline through a consistent exercise of the principles of Christian living outlined in the Word of God, as illustrated by the passage in HEB. 12:1-6.

Confession is equivalent to "laying aside the weight" of HEB. 12:1. The result is production and the fruit of the Spirit. The phrase "...let us run with patience" refers to the Faith-Rest life. This is Faith-Patience, also spoken of in JAMES 1.

The next recovery principle is Occupation with Christ, the "looking unto Jesus..." of HEB. 12:2. Then, avoid sins of the mind; avoid becoming "wearied", a reference to mental depression resulting from sin in HEB. 12:3. If any of the following are harbored continually, mental illness can result: A guilt complex; bitterness or hatred toward others; jealousy or envy; fear about the present or future; anxiety or worry about little things; desire for revenge; arrogance; judging another or running him down to others.

HEB. 12:4 refers to having victory over the Sin Nature. Confess, keep moving, separate from the sin, grow up in Christ, stand on Grace principles, exercise Faith-Rest, rely on positional truth.

Live in the Word, HEB. 12:5.

Divine discipline is designed to restrain us from sin and to teach us lessons which will result in growth (HEB. 12:11).

### **DIVINE DISCIPLINE FOR A NATION**

The Bible has many examples of divine discipline being brought against communities or nations. The most dramatic discipline of a city occurred at Sodom and Gomorrah when God destroyed the cities and their inhabitants at one stroke. There had not been even a remnant of faithful people there in order to preserve the cities from final judgment. Even Lot and his family protested against having to leave.

Another example is the destruction of heathen Jericho in which all inhabitants were killed except for Rahab and her family. Rahab obviously had positive volition toward the Gospel, and her family enjoyed blessing by association in their narrow escape.

As the individual goes, so goes the nation. In order for a nation to avoid divine discipline, there must be at least some of its citizens who live in fellowship with the Lord. A question arises as to how many positive believers constitute a remnant, a "quorum". The answer is that at least some of the citizenry and some of the political leadership of a nation must be faithful believers and have enough influence to maintain the Divine Institutions in that nation. It's possible that the remnant could be very small if it is composed of the most influential and powerful citizens, such as kings, presidents, or other top political and business leaders. In a democracy, the remnant would probably have to be fairly large in order to have divine viewpoint influence in elections.

The key is this: in order for a nation to survive there must be freedom and morality. These are vital for the preservation of national integrity and for the maintaining of the Divine Institutions of volition, marriage, family, and nationalism.

There must be freedom so that the Word of God can be taught clearly and every citizen be given a chance to decide on issues of salvation and Christian living. People need freedom so that, under positive volition to the Word of God, they can keep their marriages and their families

together. Families and nations are a part of God's plan for the human race. Satan's program is immorality, family breakup, and internationalism. The Divine Institutions were given to preserve the human race after the Fall and to protect the nations from the inroads of Satan's program.

There must be morality in order to protect people from criminality, disease, and the other consequences of unchecked sinfulness. In particular, the institutions of marriage and the family are very much dependent on a high level of morality in the community so that parents can maintain positive momentum for long periods of time while they are training and nurturing their children. It is the breakdown of morality which is the first and most obvious indication that both the individual and the nation are in trouble.

**THE FIVE CYCLES OF DISCIPLINE - LEVITICUS 26**

The five "cycles" of discipline refer to the five levels, or increments, of chastisement which God brings on a nation which steadfastly refuses to repent of its immorality and live according to God's plan. When a nation at first very subtly begins to drift away from the Lord, indicated by a laxness in morality in many of its citizens and an indifference to the Word of God, the Lord begins the discipline with relatively gentle reminders in the form of a loss of peace, a reduction in prosperity, and so forth. At the other end of the scale, God allows the complete destruction of a nation which has defiantly ignored all levels of discipline. This destruction is analogous to the Sin Unto Death suffered by an individual who is intractable in his defiance of God (Nadab and Abihu, Saul, Ananias and Sapphira).

At this point you should read LEVITICUS 26:14-29. That chapter provides a concise outline of God's warnings about the levels of punishment He will bring on the nation of Israel if they will not turn from their sinful rebellion. Discipline of the nation begins with relatively mild problems, including people's loss of inner peace and mental depression. There will be great fear and paranoia among the people, accompanied by lack of success in business and agriculture, poverty, sickness, and defeat in battle.

Verses 18 to 20 show the second stage of discipline which is characterized by a continued lack of fellowship with the Lord, loss of national prestige and honor, a cessation of God's grace provision for the nation, and a great barrenness in the land.

The third cycle, verses 21 and 22, includes great plagues, no control over natural enemies, a general inability to subdue the earth, the death of children, and the beginnings of great desolation among the people.

In verses 23-26 chastisement becomes severe, with increased attacks by enemies, invasions by foreign powers. There is extreme economic adversity and poor productivity, even in the production of necessities, resulting in famine. Some national sovereignty remains, but invaders have ever-widening influence in all areas of life. There are increases in plagues and disease.

The fifth cycle of discipline involves complete loss of personal and national sovereignty, the destruction of the family and the nation. Offerings to God are unacceptable. Nations which have undergone this destruction have experienced slavery, cannibalism, and the assimilation of its surviving citizens into other cultures.

**SEEDS OF NATIONAL DESTRUCTION, GENESIS 11**

The people of Babel, in defiance of God, thought they could construct a better society, a more secure, more compatible, more idealistic community. Their volitional defiance of God began at the grass roots level, "They said to one another..."; then they united in an effort to organize their society under agreed-upon principles. They had a complete disregard for God; there was no communication between God and man. They refused divine viewpoint and the commandment to go throughout the world and multiply.

During the Age of the Jews there were many examples of national discipline. HOSEA 4:1-7 gives an example of the nation rejecting Bible teaching and building for chastisement. They were engaged in false business practices (4:2); there was no application of grace, "no truth...nor

<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>10</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 12</b>	a Grace Notes study

mercy" (4:1); they were in a miserable state "languish" (4:3); there was false prosperity "they are increased" (4:7); they followed their religious leaders to destruction.

The whole book of Isaiah, notably chapter 28, was directed at the nation which had rejected the authority of God.

National destruction came on every nation that rejected the Word of God, not just the nation of Israel. Canaan was destroyed by the Jews under Joshua. There was divine discipline on Egypt for refusing to let the Jews leave. Assyria was destroyed (2 KINGS 19:35; 2 CHRON. 32:21). Babylon, in turn, faded quickly as a nation (DANIEL 5).

And discipline is related to cities as well as to nations, as the following examples indicate:

Sodom and Gomorrah, GEN. 18:20

Jericho, JOSHUA 6

Jerusalem, LUKE 21:24; JER. 5:1

Damascus, ISAIAH 17:1

Nineveh, NAHUM 3:5-8

Babylon, ISAIAH 13:19-21

Tyre, EZEKIEL 26,27; ISAIAH 23:1

Rome, REV. 17:11; 18:1ff

Chorazin and Bethsaida, MATT. 11:21

Sidon, EZEKIEL 28:20,22

### **Sins of the Tongue**

READ Psalm 64:1-10.

Sins of the tongue have their origin in the Sin Nature. These sins are among the most devastating of all of the categories of sin. Of the seven sins mentioned in Proverbs 6:16-19 as being especially hated by God, three are sins of the tongue. As a Christian believer, you must learn as much as possible about this type of sin. And you must do everything possible to gain victory over this in order to be able to make progress in the Christian Way of Life.

PSALM 34:11-14.

Sins of the tongue are motivated by mental sins such as arrogance, jealousy, bitterness,

vindictiveness, implacability, hatred, mental adultery, pettiness, envy, guilt feelings, etc. All of these sins are focused at other people at one time or another. When someone reaches out to attack another person, the tongue is used to voice the inner mental sins which are already present. Such talk may be direct and scathing, even vulgar. Or the talk may be subtle, refined, intellectual, even couched in Christian terms. "There is a matter that I need to share with you as a prayer request; this is just between us spiritual believers..."

NOTE : If you know something bad about a person, or you suspect something, do not share it with anyone unless that person has a direct hand in the solution of the problem. If in doubt, don't talk about it!

Sins of the tongue are a sign of the believer's reverting to the old way of life, the condition of the carnal man. James 4:11; 5:9; 5:12, Romans 3:13,14. In fact, the believer who indulges in sins of the tongue cannot be distinguished from an unbeliever. The believer is warned in Ephesians 4 not to fall into the life patterns of the unbeliever. EPH. 4:17-22, 25, 29-32.

Verbal sins can destroy a family or a congregation. Things like gossip, slander, maligning, judging, backbiting, and boasting are malicious, vengeful, and destructive. James 3:5,6. Troublemakers are always characterized by sins of the tongue. Psalm 52:2.

It is the duty of the pastor to warn against these things. 2 Tim. 2:14-17. And believers are commanded to separate themselves from such troublemakers. Rom. 16:17,18. This separation may be just a turning away or refusal to comment or to reply in a conversation. Separation does not mean ostracism or excommunication except in the worst cases. It means, at first, refusal to participate. Teaching on this topic may involve exhortation and rebuke, as in Titus 2:15. But such teaching, plus the refusal of believers to participated in sins of the tongue, will help the one who is having trouble with this to have victory.

TITUS 1:10,11.

Sins of the tongue produce compounded divine discipline. Ps. 64:8; Matt. 7:1,2. First, there is

discipline for the mental attitude sin which motivates the verbal sin. Second, there is discipline for the verbal sin itself. Third, there is discipline for the sins which one assigns to another person in wrongly judging him - "with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again."

#### TYPES OF SINS OF THE TONGUE

*Backbiting* - slander, defamation of character, evil speech, detraction. Found in several places in the Bible, including Rom. 1:30 as one of the sins of the immoral person who has rejected God. READ Psalm 15:3; 50:20; 101:5; Proverbs 25:23; Jer. 9:4; Rom. 1:30; 2 Cor. 12:20.

*False Witness* - lying about people, especially while under oath. Prov. 25:28; Exo. 32:1; Prov. 19:9. Examples of false witness:

- Against Stephen, Acts. 6:11
- Against Paul, Acts 25:7
- Against Christ, Matthew and Mark

*Perjury* - lying under oath. READ Lev. 6:3; 19:12; Zech. 5:4; Mal. 3:5; 1 Tim. 1:10

*Lying* - READ Prov. 12:22; 21:6; Col. 3:9; Lev. 19:11; Luke 20:20.

*Dissimulation* - Faking it, covering up, hypocrisy. Example: calling in sick when not sick. READ 1 Sam. 21:13; Acts 23:12-15; 2 Sam. 14:2; 2 Kings 10:19; Luke 20:20.

*Busybody* - self-appointed monitor, or one who tries to straighten others out. This word appears as a translation of several Greek originals.

From περιεργος (periergos), verb. (periergomai) "to do something useless or unnecessary". Literally, "to work around". Also used in Greek to mean "undue anxiety" over something which is not really a proper concern.

2 THESS. 3:11.

Also from αλλοτροεπισκοπος (allotroepiskopos), a combining form from αλλοτριος, "belonging to another", and επισκοπις, "bishop". Hence, the busybody is "another man's bishop".

1 PET. 4:15.

*Talebearing* - slandering, whispering behind backs. Prov. 11:13; 17:9; 18:8

*Evil Whispering* - Prov. 16:28.

*Slander* - Psalm 101:5; 50:20; Prov. 10:18; 11:9; 2 Sam. 10:3; Job 1:11; Luke 7:33.

*False Accusation* - READ 1 Sam. 1:14; Neh. 6:7; Job 2:5; 22:6; Jer. 33:17; Matt. 5:11; 27:12; Luke 6:7; 1 Peter 3:16.

*Evil Speaking* - READ Ps. 5:9; 10:7; 36:3; 55:21; Prov. 12:18; 24:2; Matt. 12:34; Rom. 3:13; James 3:6; 4:11.

God provides protection for the believer who is, himself, a victim of sins of the tongue. Job. 5:19-21.

Control of the tongue, the absence of verbal sins, is a sign of Christian edification in the believer, and it is a sign of considerable growth in Grace. James 3:2; 4:11,12. By avoiding sins of the tongue, the Christian can lengthen his life and find great happiness. Ps. 34:12,13.

#### HOW TO HAVE VICTORY OVER SINS OF THE TONGUE

1. Grow daily in conformity with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Ask God the Father for provision and protection in this area.
3. Confess this sin each time you are convicted of it.
4. Learn to recognize all of the verbal sins -- some are obvious, some are subtle.
5. Keep silent during discussion of a bad situation.
6. Keep silent during discussion of another person.
7. Keep silent.

**RULE:** Do not pass on derogatory or uncomplimentary information about anyone, unless the Word of God has given you the specific authority and responsibility to do so, and the person you are giving the information likewise has responsibility in the situation and a need-to-know the information.

### Sin Unto Death

The phrase "sin unto death" describes the final stage of divine discipline in which God removes from the earth the person who is totally alienated from God. The "sin unto death" is not a particular sin; but it is, rather, a mental attitude of total indifference to and rebellion against the will and purpose of God.

The spiritual condition of the person who comes under the "sin unto death" is characterized by continual and maximum carnality; and this punishment represents God's final step of chastisement to those who are in maximum alienation from God. Only God can discern the true nature of a person's mind, attitude, or volition; and only God knows whether a person is actually implacable and deserving of physical death.

The "sin unto death" is described as a principle in 1 John 5:16; Psalm 118:17,18; and Ezek. 18:21-32.

It is important for the Christian to understand the circumstances under which sins are not "unto death".

First, sin which is confessed is not "unto death". 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 11:31; Ps. 32:5; Ps. 38.

Second, sin which is discontinued is not "unto death". Heb. 12:1; Eze. 18:21-32.

Finally, the person who responds positively to divine discipline is not involved in the "sin unto death". Heb. 12:6, cf. 12:11-15.

There are definite characteristics by which to recognize the conditions which lead to God's applying the "sin unto death". Persistent, unconfessed sin, sin which continues unchecked with no repentance, may bring a person under this category. Also, the person who persistently ignores Grace, warnings, and discipline may come under the "sin unto death". Lev. 26. Then, sin which has a maximum adverse effect on other people (causing stumbling) may lead a person into severe discipline.

Some case histories of the "sin unto death":

- The case of "lying to the Holy Spirit" (Ananias and Sapphira). Acts 5:1-10.

- The case of persistent carnality while sitting at the Lord's Table, 1 Cor. 11:30,31.
  - The case of disobedience to the Word of God. 1 Chron. 10:13,14; 1 Sam. 13:9-14. King Saul did not kill Agag although directly ordered to do so by God; he insisted on personally offering sacrifices in the place of divinely appointed priests; and he consulted a witch, itself a capital offense.
  - The case of self-righteousness and dependence on man which was perpetuated (case of Hezekiah). Isa. 38.
- The case of apostasy on the part of a believer. Num. 31:8; 1 Tim. 1:19,20.

### Pride

**"THESE SIX THINGS DOTH THE LORD HATE: YEA, SEVEN ARE AN ABOMINATION UNTO HIM: A PROUD LOOK ..."**

#### INTRODUCTION

God has a plan for your life. God is perfect, therefore, His plan is perfect.

It is impossible for you with your sin nature to execute the plan of God for your life. Therefore, God has provided through His grace a way for you to execute His plan, purpose, and will during your lifetime.

Whenever a Christian fails in executing the plan of God for his life, sinful pride is the primary reason and motivating cause.

Pride is the basic mental attitude sin. As you will see in this study, sinful pride (or arrogance) precedes and supports all of the sinful mental attitudes the sin nature produces.

Satan was the first creature guilty of pride. His motivation of pride is found in one line of ISA. 14:14. "I will make myself like the Most High God." The original sin of pride is amplified in the following passage.

**Ezek 28:14-17. "You were the Anointed Cherub who guards; I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you**

**were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your slander, they filled your inner life with violence and you sinned. Therefore, I have cast you as defiled from the mountain of God. I have excluded you, O Guardian Cherub, out from the stones of fire. Your right lobe was lifted up because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom because of your glamor. I have cast you to the earth. I have placed you before kings that they may see you."**

#### A DESCRIPTION OF SINFUL PRIDE

Pride is a lofty self-respect totally apart from reality. It is high esteem of oneself from some imagined or real superiority.

Pride is the antithesis of grace. The believer who is arrogant is totally blind to the grace of God.

Pride is synonymous with vanity, which is empty pride in regard to one's person, attainments, or possessions coupled with an excessive desire to be noticed, a lust for attention, lust for approval or praise from others.

Pride is the pomposity of vain glory.  
It is supercilious and haughty  
contempt of others.

Pride supports a whole array of sins, such as jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, revenge motivation, revenge tactics, self-pity, conceit, inordinate ambition and competition, slander, gossip, and maligning.

Pride is a mental attitude sin which overflows into the motivation, decision making and activity of the individual. Pride includes several different concepts.

- Egotism. This is an excessive preoccupation with self and must be distinguished from ego, which is self-consciousness and is perfectly normal.
- Vanity. This is self-admiration and an excessive desire to be admired by others. Hence, vanity is easily flattered and patronized.
- Conceit. This is exaggerated estimate of one's abilities and attainments.

#### SCRIPTURES RELATED TO THE SIN OF PRIDE

**Prov 11:2, "When pride comes, then come dishonor."**

**Prov 16:18, "Pride precedes destruction, and before a fall there is a lifestyle of pride."**

**Prov 23:29, "A person's pride will bring him low, but a lifestyle of humility will attain honor."**

**Rom 12:3, "For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you, stop thinking of self in terms of pride beyond what you ought to think, but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine."**

**Pride is defined in terms of the sin of jealousy in**

**Jam 3:14-16, "But if you have bitter jealousy and inordinate ambition in your heart, stop being arrogant, and stop lying against the truth [Bible doctrine]. This pseudo wisdom is not that which comes from above, but is earthly, natural, and demonic. For where jealousy and inordinate ambition exist there is disorder and every evil deed."**

**Prov 13:10, "Through pride comes strife, but wisdom is with those who receive instruction."**

**1 Pet 5:5, "Likewise you younger men be subject to the elder [pastor], and all of you cloth yourselves with humility toward one another. `For God makes war against the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.' Therefore, humble yourselves under the powerful hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time."**

#### APPLICATION

If God does not promote you, you are not promoted.

God promotes men and women of who have absorbed the Word of God.

God promotes humble or grace oriented people. Promotion is a matter of doctrinal inculcation and grace-orientation.

Promotion is a matter of glorifying God through the execution of the plan of God for the believer in the Church Age.

Promoted believers are the invisible heroes of the Church Age..

**2 Tim 3:2-7 describes facets of pride. "For persons [believers] will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, wicked, without virtue-love, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of God, treacherous, thoughtless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but having denied its power, in fact, avoid such persons as these. And among them [immoral arrogant believers] are those who creep into households and captivates silly women who are loaded down with sins and lead on by their multifarious lusts, always learning but never able to come to metabolized knowledge of the truth."**

#### **THE ARROGANCE OF NATIONS BRINGS THEM UNDER DIVINE DISCIPLINE**

**Lev 26:19, "And I will break down the pride of your power. And I will make your sky like iron, and your land like bronze."**

**Isa 9:8-9, "The Lord sends a message against Jacob and it falls on Israel. And all the people know it, that is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who spoke with pride and pride of heart. The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones."**

**Ezek 7:10, "Behold, the day is coming. Your doom has gone forth. The rod of discipline has budded because pride has blossomed."**

#### **PRIDE IS ALWAYS RELATED TO THE REJECTION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**1 Tim 6:3-4, "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not concur with sound doctrine, those doctrines of our Lord Jesus Christ, even doctrines pertaining to godliness [spirituality], he has become arrogant, understanding nothing. Furthermore, he has morbid obsessions about controversies and verbal conflicts from which originate jealousy, discord, evil speculation."**

Pride distracts the believer from doctrine. Pride divorces the believer from reality, both personal and historical. Pride is the corruptor of the soul and the sign that the sin nature is dominating the soul.

Pride destroys capacity for life, love, and happiness.

#### **THE EFFECTS OF PRIDE**

The arrogant person rejects authority.

Pride motivates emotional sins, such as: fear, worry, anxiety, hatred, anger, violence, murder, guilt. and guilt complex, self-pity.

Pride reproduces itself in jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, revenge motivation and function, inordinate ambition and competition, gossip, slander, maligning, and judging.

Pride transformed into self-righteousness produces legalism.

#### **THE SOLUTION TO PRIDE**

Occupation with Christ is the ultimate problem solving device regarding pride. [Refer to the notes on Occupation with Christ]

**Prov 8:11, "The respect for the Lord is to hate evil, to hate pride and pride and the evil way. And I hate a perverted mouth."**

Daily attention to the techniques of the Christian Way of Life will give you a grace mental attitude that becomes more and more free of pride as you grow in Christ and in the knowledge of His Word.

## Jealousy

### DEFINITION

**Jealousy** is a mental attitude or emotional sin which is characterized by resentment of another person's accomplishments, recognition, attractiveness, or possessions, or by hostility towards someone else who is believed to be enjoying some advantage.

**Jealousy** is a common result of the sin of pride, or arrogance. Jealousy can be thought of a part of a collection or complex of sins which begin with pride.

A prideful attitude is the opposite of a grace attitude. A person who is filled with pride is blind to the grace of God. Pride makes a person think of himself with a lofty self-esteem that is far apart from reality, and has a source in some imagined or real superiority to others.

**Prov. 14:30**, "A sound heart is life to the body; but jealousy is rottenness to the bones."

Jealousy is one of the strongest mental attitude sins.

**Prov. 27:3,4**, "A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty, but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both. Wrath is cruel (fierce), and anger is outrageous, but who can stand before jealousy?"

**Pride** is synonymous with vanity, which is empty pride in regard to one's person, attainments, or possessions, coupled with an excessive desire to be noticed, to be recognized, to receive approval or praise from others.

**Jealousy**, then, is the result of discontent with the blessings, successes, or possessions of other people, or of their attractiveness, or of the attention that they receive.

Jealousy also comes from the fear of losing another person's friendship or love, a mood that is based on self-centeredness, that suspects that the other person's love has been diverted to a rival.

Jealousy, then, brings about a frantic competition in love, business or professional life, social life, athletics, as well as in the religious life.

### SCRIPTURAL TEACHING ON JEALOUSY

**Jealousy is one result of false teaching.**

**1 Tim. 6:3,4**, "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, He is **proud**, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and disputes of words, from which come **jealousy**, strife, railings, evil suspicions."

**James 3:14,16**, But if you have bitter **jealousy** and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth, This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, demoniacal. For where **jealousy** and strife are, there is confusion and every evil work."

When a person is jealous, he is contentious, and he tries to build up self. To do this, he must lie against Bible truth.

**Jealousy rejects Bible teaching.**

**Acts 13:45**, "But when the Jews [in Antioch of Pisidia] saw the multitudes [listening to Paul and Barnabas], they were filled with **jealousy**, and spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming."

**Acts 17:5**, "But when the Jews [of Thessalonica] who believed not, moved with **jealousy**, took unto them certain vile fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city in an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people."

**Jealousy motivates religious people.**

**Mark 15:9,10**, "But Pilate answered them, saying, Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews? For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for **jealousy**."

**Joseph's brothers were motivated by jealousy to sell him into slavery.**

From Stephen's speech: **Acts 7:9**, "And the patriarchs, moved with **jealousy**, sold Joseph into Egypt, but God was with him."

**Jealousy split the nation of Israel.**

**Isa. 11:13**, "The **jealousy** also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim."

**Special offerings were made for jealousy in Israel.**

**Numbers 5:11-31**

**Jealousy destroys a persons capacity for personal love for a member of the opposite sex.**

**Song 8:6**, “Set me a seal on your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, jealousy is cruel as the grave (Sheol); its coals are coals of fire, with a terrible flame.

**Jealousy is self-destructive.**

**Job 5:2**, “For wrath kills the foolish man, and **jealousy** slays the silly one.”

**Prov. 14:30**, “A sound heart is life to the body; but jealousy is rottenness to the bones.”

**Jealousy is the trigger for false motivation and discord.**

**Phil. 1:15-17**, “Some, indeed preach Christ even of **jealousy** and strife; and some also of good will; the one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds; but the other, of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.”

Here we have human good, a right action produced from a wrong motivation, jealousy. Arrogance creates this false motivation and competition. Pettiness is closely related to jealousy.

**APPLICATION**

**Jealousy** is a major function of self-righteousness and arrogance; therefore it is a major factor in Christian backsliding and degeneracy. Jealousy causes a Christian to develop a system of legalism or false spirituality, to set himself up as a role model for what Christianity should be, then to try to get others to accept their model of false self-identity.

While **jealousy** is part of the pride complex of sins, it generates its own suite of sinful reactions, including: bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, ambition, competition, verbal sins, and revenge tactics.

Jealousy is a system of self-justification. You cannot solve your problems when you are trying to justify yourself.

The filling of the Holy Spirit cannot co-exist with jealousy; they are mutually excusive. Therefore, jealousy keeps a person from glorifying Christ.

Jealousy is a discontent with the blessings of successes of other people, a resentment of other people for what they have received. Therefore, it is total selfishness and is incapable of love. Love and jealousy are mutually exclusive.

Jealousy is tyranny, in that it comes from an attitude of possessiveness of another person, and therefore stifles the other person’s volition. Jealousy destroys freedom because it intrudes upon privacy.

**THE SOLUTION TO JEALOUSY**

Occupation with Christ is the ultimate problem solving device regarding pride and jealousy. [Refer to the notes on Occupation with Christ]

**Prov 8:11, "The respect for the Lord is to hate evil, to hate pride and pride and the evil way. And I hate a perverted mouth."**

Daily attention to the techniques of the Christian Way of Life will give you a grace mental attitude that becomes more and more free of jealousy as you grow in Christ and in the knowledge of His Word.

**Satan**

Satan is an angelic personality (would you believe...). He is one of the most beautiful of creatures. He has no red skin or horns, no trident (pitchfork), and he does not breathe fire and brimstone. In fact, fire and brimstone make him shudder, because he is condemned to the Lake of Fire mentioned in Matt. 25:41. Satan is more intelligent than any human. His name, Lucifer, means "great shining light", or "Son of the Morning".

A portrait of Satan and his personality are given by Eze. 28:11-19 and Isa. 14:12-17.

**THE FIVE "I WILL'S" OF SATAN - FROM ISA. 14:12-17**

"I will ascend into heaven", a reference to the throne room of God. Satan wanted to take over God's place.

"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."  
Satan wanted to rule angels.

**Job 38:7**

**Jude 13**

**Rev. 12:3,4**

"I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation  
in the sides of the north." Satan wanted to rule  
over the Earth.

**Psa. 48:2**

"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds."  
Or, "I will be supreme." He desired to  
displace God as the Sovereign of the Universe.

"I will be like the most High." Satan's power lust;  
"I will be God."

Satan is called the "father of lies", John 8:44. He  
is called a murderer, 1 John 3:8. He is the highest  
authority in the cosmos, Eph. 2:2. Even Michael  
the archangel is no match for Satan.

### **SATAN'S THREE FALLS**

Satan fell first at the point of negative volition  
toward the sovereignty of God, during the five "I  
Will's"; Isa. 14; Eze. 28:15.

Satan's second fall will occur at the middle of the  
Tribulation when he is denied access to Heaven.  
Rev. 12:9; Eze. 28:15.

At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, Satan  
will be cast into the lake of fire. This will be his  
final fall. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10; Eze. 28:18.

### **SATAN - THE RULER OF THIS WORLD**

**Luke 4:5-7**

**John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**

**2 Cor. 4:4**

**Eph. 2:2**

As the ruler of this world, Satan has a strategy  
regarding the nations. In basic terms, Satan's  
desire is to neutralize the Divine Institutions by  
means of the destruction of nations. Therefore,  
Satan is anti-nationalistic and pro-United Nations,  
pro-World Council of Churches, pro-Communist.

REV. 12:9; 20:3,8

Bible truth is Satan's greatest enemy and is the  
source of the most powerful attack on his kosmos.  
Therefore, Satan has designed revolution to  
neutralize nationalism which is protective of the  
Word of God.

### **SATAN'S STRATEGY WITH UNBELIEVERS**

Every human being is born spiritually dead, hence  
is born as a member of the kingdom of Satan.  
Satan has a strategy regarding every person to  
keep that person from accepting Jesus Christ as  
Savior. He tries to blind unbelievers to the  
Gospel.

**2 Cor. 4:3,4**

**Luke 8:12**

**2 Thess. 2:9,10**

The unbeliever is made blind to gospel  
information by being distracted by Satan and by  
exercising negative volition toward the Word of  
God. While Satan does not force anyone to be  
lost, he uses every means to steer the unbeliever  
away from the truth. His ultimate weapons in this  
are religion and humanism. He tries to promote  
the glorification and deification of mankind while  
downgrading God Himself. Gen. 3:5; Col. 2:8

### **SATAN'S STRATEGY WITH BELIEVERS**

Satan doesn't give up when a person accepts Christ  
as Savior. He has a strategy regarding believers  
which is very subtle and far-reaching.

Satan accuses believers before God. The sins of  
the Christian are observed by the fallen angels and  
reported. In effect, a dossier is being kept on each  
believer. He does this to try to hinder the work of  
God on earth. However, 1 John 2:1 ff points out  
that Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father;  
and the Lord reminds the Father of what happened  
at the Cross and makes note of the believer's faith  
and position in Christ.

**Rev. 12:9,10**

**Zech. 3:1,2**

**Job 1:6-11**

**2 Cor. 2:11**

Satan tries to keep the believer from the Word of God. He encourages Christians to ignore the Word and accept false teaching so that they will revert to their former manner of life.

**1 Tim. 4:1**

**1 Cor. 10:19-21**

**2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15**

**2 Chron. 21:1**

Satan distracts by trying to keep believers from public assembly worship, Heb. 10:25. He tempts the believer with an improper emphasis on details of life such as money, success, social life, pleasure, loved ones, health, sex, materialistic things, or status symbols. The mature believer knows that his happiness is not derived from these things, so he is not a slave to them. The novice Christian, however, may try to gain happiness from such things, and this will distract him from the Word of God.

False teaching is a part of Satan's strategy. The following are some of the characteristics of false teachers:

- They have a false facade. Matt. 7:15; Rom. 16:18.
- They court believers. Gal. 4:17,18; 2 Tim. 3:5,7.
- They appeal to human pride. 2 Cor. 10:12
- They promote idolatry because it is a quick way to demon influence. Hab. 2:18,1
- They promote legalism. 1 Tim. 1:7,8
- The false teachers will continue to operate throughout Satan's rule on earth. 1 John 4:1

Satan seeks to frustrate the will of God for the believer. There are three categories of the will of God which Satan tries to interdict.

- The operational will of God (what God wants us to do); James 4:7,8; Gal. 5:7.
- The mental, or intellectual, will of God (what God wants us to think): 1 Tim. 4:1.
- The geographical will of God (where God wants us to be);, 1 Thess. 2:18.

Satan encourages believers to worry. Worry neutralizes the soul of the believer. He tries to frighten Christians with regard to physical death

**1 Peter 5:7-9**

**Heb. 2:14,15**

Satan attempts to change the focus of the believer. Instead of Occupation with Christ, Satan wants the Christian to be occupied with

SELF, (Col. 3:1; 1 Cor. 1:10,11; Gen. 3:4,5; Mt. 26:31-35)

THINGS, (Heb. 13:5,6; 1 Cor. 1:10,11),

PEOPLE, (Jer. 17:5; 1 Kings 19:10; Jer. 17:4).

One of the functions of the Faith-Rest principle is to protect the Christian in the area of having a proper focus on life.

Emotionalism can lead to great distractions for Christians; so Satan puts on a big campaign to control people's emotions. While the emotion is a bona fide function of the soul, whenever emotion takes precedence over Bible truth, it leads to distraction. Those who dabble in ecstatic experiences, public or private, are allowing their feelings and emotions to outweigh doctrine. Under circumstances of edification and spiritual growth, emotion is a tremendous generator of happiness. But emotion has no spiritual meaning or connotation; and emotion cannot be used as a criterion of spiritual condition.

Satan also promotes heavily in the area of mental attitude sins such as fear, worry, bitterness, desires for revenge, pride, guilt feelings, lack of love, failure to forgive, hatred, mental adultery, and so forth. A believer is neutralized by sin; and mental attitude sins are behind all sin. And they are the worst category because they are so devastating. As long as mental attitude sin is taking place, the Word of God is being ignored.

One of Satan's main weapons is religion. The basic aim of religion is to counterfeit what God is doing. There are several religious counterfeits mentioned in the Bible.

- A counterfeit gospel. 2 Cor. 11:3,4
- Counterfeit ministers (unsaved, humanists, misled, etc.) 2 Cor. 11:13-15

<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>19</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 12</b>	a Grace Notes study

- Counterfeit doctrine 2 Tim. 4:1
- Counterfeit communion table 1 Cor. 10:19-21
- Counterfeit righteousness Matt. 19:16-18
- Counterfeit manner of life ("living the beautiful life") Matt. 23
- Counterfeit power 2 Thess. 2:8-10

- Counterfeit gods 2 Thess. 2:3,4

The Bible talks about the Armor of God as enabling the believer to "stand against the wiles of the devil". This armor is protection for us while we live in *kosmos diabolikos*, and the weapons of our warfare are stronger than Satan as we take our stand in the Lord Jesus Christ.

<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>20</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 12</b>	a Grace Notes study

## Lesson 12 Quiz

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:". A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

**Grace Notes**

**% Warren Doud**

**1705 Aggie Lane**

**Austin, Texas 78757 USA**

Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

This Quiz may have Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill-in-the-Blank, and Short Answer questions. Type your responses after the word "Answer:" following each question. The last question is an essay question and requires you to write a few sentences. Type your response following the questions.

1. What are some of the mental sins which motivate sins of the tongue?

Answer:

2. The man who coveted the loot he found in Jericho, and kept it for himself, was named

\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

3. The name "Ananias" means \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

4. The apostles had made it a law that when a person sold property, all the money was to be given to the apostles for distribution. [True/False]

Answer:

5. What are the five sins which are said to be against the Holy Spirit?

Answer:

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<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>21</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 12</b>	a Grace Notes study

6. When God bring final discipline upon a nation, that nation is destroyed and loses control over its own destiny. [True/False]

Answer:

7. Sins of the tongue have their origin in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

8. What is backbiting?

Answer:

9. What is a busybody?

Answer:

10. A Christian should never repeat uncomplimentary information to a third party unless that person has a strict need to know the information. [True/False]

Answer:

11. A person can avoid sins of the tongue by keeping silent when other people are being discussed. [True/False]

Answer:

12. Define pride.

Answer:

13. Pride is always related to ignorance of or rejection of the Word of God. [True/False]

Answer:

14. One of the most important solutions to pride is \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

15. What is jealousy?

Answer:

End of Quiz

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