

Dear Friend,

I was recently teaching a class in Brazil via Skype about the importance of having faith in the name of Jesus. I have taught on the name of Jesus many times and after I finished my standard lesson to the class, the Holy Spirit said ... now teach it at the next level. That is fine except ... I didn't know what the next level was! Thank God our Teacher, the Holy Spirit, has a way of leading us into higher and higher levels of understanding the truth. As I sought the Lord for understanding, the following verse kept floating up in my mind:

Heb 10:12-13 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

That led to a study of the enemies of Christ. Of course, the first enemy we all think of is the one called the adversary, the devil, Satan. In the beginning of his creation, he was known as Lucifer, the angel that covereth. Many say he was an archangel on the same order of creation as Michael and Gabriel. He had great power then, as the other archangels still do, but he was lifted up in pride and thought he could exalt himself above the throne of God.

Think of it ... an angel ... a created being ... so deceived by pride ... he thought he could exalt himself higher than his creator. That is an incredible level of deception. I have tried to think of an analogy to describe the level of deception he was under. It would be like your dog somehow thinking he is going to take over your automobile from now on. "Just move over human, I'm the one that will be driving the car from now on." No. Humans and dogs exist on two completely different levels. It is the same for the creator and all created beings.

Not only did Lucifer deceive himself, but he was able also to convince a third of the other angels to join him in his rebellion. Of course, the rebellion ended in failure. Lucifer became Satan and was cast out of heaven down to the earth. He failed to overcome God, so then he focused his ambition on overcoming the object of God's love ... man. He deceived Eve and through her deception, Adam chose to disobey the command of God. The result was that man fell to sin and death, and all of creation fell with him.

God judged Satan again and he was stripped of even more of his angelic powers. Satan no longer has the supernatural powers that he once had in heaven. Let me give you an example of the kind of power angels have who have not been stripped of their power by God:

2 Kings 19:35 And it all came to pass, for that night the Angel of the Lord went forth and slew 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when [the living] arose early in the morning, behold, all these were dead bodies. [Amplified Bible]

How powerful are angels? Just one angel killed 185,000 enemy soldiers in a single night. Jesus tells us that Satan was a murderer from the beginning. Satan wanted to murder Abel. But he no

longer had the power to murder humans directly. Satan had to get Cain to murder Abel. He has been stripped of his angelic power to murder humans. He is a murderer at heart, but he has to do his murdering through people he can convince to obey him.

Here is the point of this letter. We believers make a huge mistake when we somehow put the enemy ... Satan and demons ... on the same level of authority and power as our Lord Jesus Christ. Before He became a man, the Son of God was known as the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God. John makes it very clear that the Son, the Word, is God:

Joh 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

The Word, the Son, is God ... Who came to earth as a man ... and then humbled himself to complete obedience ... even to the obedience of death on a cross. But he did not stay dead. God raised him from the dead and highly exalted him, all the way back to his original position at the right hand of God in heaven ... where He was before ... but now His form has been altered forever ... now He is both God and man ... the God-man seated FAR ABOVE all created things:

Php 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Right about here in my meditation of the Word of God ... I began to understand what the Holy Spirit meant by His instruction for me to teach the name of Jesus at the next level. We have not understood HOW FAR ABOVE the name of Jesus really is. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD. HE IS SEATED AT THE GOD LEVEL.

Get this straight. Satan is a fallen angel. He is not in the same class as Christ, who is the God-man, seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Even before Lucifer was judged and stripped of much of his power, he was NEVER in the same class as God. It was pure pride that made him think he could become greater than God. Get it straight ... Satan is crazy. He is a lunatic. He is as crazy as a dog that thinks it can take over driving the family automobile.

Satan is a created being that has been stripped of nearly all of his angelic power. Because he has been stripped of those powers, he is not even on the same level as Michael or Gabriel anymore. Much less is Satan on the same level as Christ Jesus our Lord. When we use the Name of Jesus ... IT IS OVER! Devils tremble at that name, "if" we who bear the name of Jesus realize the true authority of it. Sickness and disease MUST bow the knee and leave every time we speak forth the name of Jesus. Let us go forward with faith in the name of Jesus and do exploits.

Your friend & co-laborer,

Gary