



THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

If Only This Windbag Had Known About the “Winds”

But if human wisdom, as it remains to understand, is the glorying in knowledge, hear the law of Scripture: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, and let not the mighty man glory in his might; but let him that glorieth glory in the Lord.” But we are God-taught, and glory in the name of Christ. How then are we not to regard the apostle as attaching this sense to the milk of the babes?

And if we who preside over the Churches are shepherds after the image of the good Shepherd, and you the sheep, are we not to regard the Lord as preserving consistency in the use of figurative speech, when He speaks also of the milk of the flock? And to this meaning we may secondly accommodate the expression, “I have given you milk to drink, and not given you food, for ye are not yet able,” regarding the meat not as something different from the milk, but the same in substance. For the very same Word is fluid and mild as milk, or solid and compact as meat.

And entertaining this view, we may regard the proclamation of the Gospel, which is universally diffused, as milk; and as meat, faith, which from instruction is compacted into a foundation, which, being more substantial than hearing, is likened to meat, and assimilates to the soul itself nourishment of this kind. Elsewhere the Lord, in the Gospel according to John, brought this out by symbols, when He said: “Eat ye my flesh, and drink my blood;” describing distinctly by metaphor the drinkable properties of faith and the promise, by means of which the Church, like a human being consisting of many members, is refreshed and grows, is welded together and compacted of both,—of faith, which is the body, and of hope, which is the soul; as also the Word of flesh and blood.

For in reality the blood of faith is hope, in which faith is held as by a vital principle. And when hope expires, it is as if blood flowed forth; and the vitality of faith is destroyed. If, then, some would oppose, saying that by

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A Note From the Editor

The Truth is, the more firmly one believes the Truth of The Teaching, the more ferocious Satan's assault on him becomes.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, February 2003, p. 3

The main article in this newsletter is a wonderful gift to all True Believers who are entrenched in a battle against Satan while preparing for the appearance of the Antichrist. *The Voice of Elijah®* is starting off the new year with additional weapons for our arsenal so that True Believers are equipped to "triumph" over the "winds." Here are a few excerpts from Larry Dee Harper on that very subject:

I have been called to provide True Believers the Truth they will need to overcome Satan's ultimate delusion. The rest is up to them. But if you are a True Believer, you'd best not delay. That final great battle is yet to come.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, November 1993, p. 7

If you ever intend to overcome the world and endure in "The Belief" to the End of the Age, you need to get one simple Truth firmly fixed in your mind: Satan has no authority over this Creation. ... Now that I have told you Satan has no authority at all over this Creation, I must also tell you he has total control over any person who grants him that control.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, August 2009, p. 13

If you overcome Satan's deception by coming to "The Light"—that is, by believing The Teaching concerning the Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ—what control does Satan have over you? Absolutely none. That is why Jesus said, "The truth shall make you free."

The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist, Larry Dee Harper, p. 45, fn. 51

Thanks to the Truth provided in this issue about how to overcome the "winds" that "blow," the following passage (on p. 22) stands out to me as the gem among gems:

⁴[Adulteresses]! [Are you [not] aware] [that] [your] [Friendship*] [with The] [World] [is] [Hostility] [toward The] [{Living} God]? [Therefore], [whoever] [it may be who] [is determined] [to be] [a Friend] [of The] [World] [appoints himself as] [an Enemy] [of The] [{Living} God]. ⁵[Or] [do you assume] [that] [The] [Writing] [says] [without content*]: "[He yearns [with] [Envy] for] [The] [Spirit] [that] [He caused to reside*] [in] [us]"? ⁶[But] [He is going to grant] [a [more tremendous] Favor]. [Wherefore], [He says], "[THE] [{Living} GOD] [IS PREPARING HIMSELF TO FIGHT] [THOSE WHO ARE ARROGANT], [BUT] [HE IS GOING TO GRANT] [A FAVOR] [TO THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE]." ⁷[Therefore], [be submissive] [to The] [{Living} God]; [but] [withstand]

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[The] [False Accuser], [and] [he will flee] [from] [you]. ⁸*[Draw near] [to The] [{Living} God], [and] [He will draw near] [to you]. [You [Sinners], cleanse] [{your} Hands]; [and] [you [double-minded], purify] [{your} Hearts].*
(James 4:4-8) —HSSB

Withstand isn't a word I use every day, so I looked it up to make sure I "got it." Here's what I found online at www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary:

Definition of *withstand*:

To stand up against: oppose with firm determination; especially: to resist successfully

Great word! Now you're talking! Those of you who are participants in The Next Step program have received instruction through that program regarding what the "winds" seek to accomplish in the life of the True Believer. But for those who haven't taken that "step" yet, Larry Dee Harper has written about the "winds" over the years in this newsletter and in *Update* articles as well. To get recent subscribers up to speed, here's a brief (not exhaustive) review of things Larry has written about the "winds" from past issues of *The Voice of Elijah*® and *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update*:

You probably don't realize it, but the "winds" blow their lies at you constantly, from all directions, trying to entice you into believing one of their ingenious deceptions so you can snuggle up comfortably along with the rest of the "chaff" and go to sleep. They eventually succeed in deceiving most who turn to Jesus Christ in repentance. They most often do so by convincing them some "easy-believism" doctrine is all they need to make it to Heaven.

The Voice of Elijah® *Update*, June 1993, p. 5

...in every generation God has always had His Remnant—those dedicated Believers unwilling to give in to the "winds." Those few saints of God have always continued on alone living a life holy and separated to

God. Although there are fewer such solitary Believers in this generation than in most, that is about to change. God will respond to us after we respond to Him.

The Voice of Elijah® *Update*, June 1993, p. 5

*We are, and will be, held responsible for what we are. We give in and go along with the "winds" because we want to give in to their enticement. It's that simple. And God allows the "winds" to blow their lies at us because it's all part of the testing process I explained for you in the March issue of *The Update*. In a nutshell, that's how the "winds" help God winnow His harvest.*

The Voice of Elijah® *Update*, June 1993, p. 6

I don't pretend to understand all that God has in mind for our time. But I do know the menacing winds and deluge of rainfall associated with the disasters you see so frequently on television is nothing more than a symbolic depiction of the "latter rain" and demonic "winds" that are going to sweep the face of the Earth, leaving nothing unscathed. The inevitable day of reckoning is bearing down hard on us, folks, and there is nothing you or I can do to stop it now. God is going to terrify even the swaggering he-men among us before it is all over. You can believe that if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to.

The Voice of Elijah® *Update*, August 1994, p. 16

Given the fact that one is destined for either salvation or destruction, does it make any sense at all to see oneself as a "victim"? I mean, let's be honest: If everyone has sinned and is fully deserving of the wrath of God, where is the victim? Yet that is the idiotic mind-set the "winds" have sold this generation.

The Voice of Elijah®, April 2001, p. 13

You get the picture. Larry has been teaching about Satan and the "winds" since way back when (actually pre-dating *The Voice of Elijah*®). His article in this issue is icing on the cake. Get your highlighter and sticky notes handy. This issue is sure to be your go-to resource to prepare yourself for the daily battle True Believers face.

In Him, *Marcia Harper*

It Ain't No Fun Tryin' ta Stand Up in a Hurricane

In the second chapter of 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul makes an interesting statement, and one that you can easily overlook if you don't know what he has in mind. If you do, it becomes a stark reminder of the pitched battle in which the Lord demands that each and every one of His Children not only participate but also come out triumphant. Therefore, I am going to show you what Paul says; and then I am going to explain what he knows that you need to know—provided you have any desire to overcome the wiles of Satan here at the End of the Age. This is what Paul says:

¹[For] [this is what] [I have decided] [for myself]—[to] [not] [come] [to] [you] [in] [Anguish] [again]. ²[For] [if] [I] [am] [also] [causing] [you] [to be in anguish], [who is] [the one who] [is going to cause] [me] [to celebrate] [except] [the one who] [is in anguish] [because] [of me]? ³[So] [I wrote] {you} [This] [very] [Thing], [so that] [when] {I} [came], [I would] [not] [have] [Anguish] [from] [those who] [should] [make] [me] [rejoice], [having confidence] [in] [you] [all] [that] [my] [Joy] [is going to be] {the joy} [of] [all] [of you]. ⁴[For] [I wrote] [to you] [with] [many] [Tears] [and] [Apprehension] [of Heart] [because of] [intense] [Turmoil], [not] [so that] [you would be in anguish], [but] [so that] [you would know] [The] [Love] [that] [I have], [especially] [for] [you]. ⁵[But] [if] [anyone] [has caused] {you} [anguish], [he has] [not] [caused] [me] [anguish] [but] [in] [Part], [so that] [I would] [not] [impose a burden on] [you] [all]. ⁶[For] [Such a Person], [This] [Rebuke*]—[which was] {imposed} [by] [The] [Majority]—{is} [a Considerable Amount], ⁷[so] [you] [should,] [to the contrary], [grant] {him} [a favor] [and] [encourage] {him} [instead], [for fear that] [somehow] [Such a Person] [would be swallowed up by] [all the more] [Anguish].

⁸[Wherefore], [I implore] [you] [to validate] {your} [Love] [for] [him]. ⁹[For] [I] [also] [wrote] [for] [This Reason], [so that] [I would find out about] [your] [Approval]—[whether] [you are] [willing to listen] [to] [everything] {I say}. ¹⁰[So], [to whomever] [you grant] [anything] [as a favor], [I] {do} [also]; [for] [even] [what]—[if] [anything]—[I] [was granted as a favor], [I was granted] {it} [in] [The Anointed One's] [Presence] [as a favor] [for] [you], ¹¹[so that] [we would] [not] [be taken advantage of] [by] [Satan], [for] [we are] [not] [those who do not understand] [his] [Thoughts].
(2 Corinthians 2:1–11) —my interim translation

Let me recap what Paul said: He is talking about not feeling anguish over some situation faced by the Corinthians, and them feeling anguish because of something he is facing. Then he switches over and begins talking about them causing anguish in someone they are disciplining for a lapse in his “walk” with the Lord. That part of what Paul says is fairly easy to understand, but then he says this:

¹⁰[So], [to whomever] [you grant] [anything] [as a favor], [I] {do} [also]; [for] [even] [what]—[if] [anything]—[I] [was granted as a favor], [I was granted] {it} [in] [The Anointed One's] [Presence] [as a favor] [for] [you], ¹¹[so that] [we would] [not] [be taken advantage of] [by] [Satan], [for] [we are] [not] [those who do not understand] [his] [Thoughts].
(2 Corinthians 2:10–11) —my interim translation

Now I ask you: How in the world is anyone supposed to know how Satan thinks, much less what he is thinking in any given instance? Easy question to ask; not so easy to answer. But I am going to show you what

you need to know about the mind-set of the most abject of all idiots. But first, I need to show you something else.

The Winds, They Blow— East, West, North, South—Continually

Like Paul, the Apostle John also makes an interesting statement; and one that can easily be passed over unless you know exactly what he is *talking about*. If you do, it becomes a stark reminder of the pitched battle in which the Lord demands that each and every one of His Children not only participate but also come out triumphant. Therefore, I am going to show you what John says; and then I am going to explain what he knows that you need to know—provided you have any desire to overcome the wiles of Satan here at the End of the Age. This is what John says:

¹[After] [This], [I saw] [four] [Messengers] [standing] [at] [The] [four] [Corners] [of The] [Earth], [holding on to] [The] [four] [Winds] [of The] [Earth], [so that] [Wind] [could [not] blow] [on] [The] [Earth] [nor] [on] [The] [Sea] [nor] [on] [any] [Tree]. ²[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger], [one who was holding] [{the} Seal] [of {the} [living] God], [coming up] [from] [Sun's] [Sunrise]. [And] [he shouted] [in a [loud] Voice] [to The] [four] [Messengers] [to [whom] {the right} had been given] [to harm] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea], ³[saying], "[Do [not] harm] [The] [Earth] [nor] [The] [Sea] [nor] [The] [Trees] [until] [we have set a seal on] [The] [Slaves] [of our] [God]—[on] [their] [Foreheads]."⁴[And] [I heard] [The] [Number] [of those who] [had been sealed]: [One hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] {were} [those who had been sealed] [from] [every] [Tribe] [of Israel's] [Sons].
(Revelation 7:1–4) —my interim translation

Let me recap what John has written: He begins by telling us there are four messengers who control the four winds of the Earth. That part of what he says *seems to be* fairly easy to understand, but then he switches over and begins *talking about* another messenger, one who has the authority to set some sort of seal on those who believe the Truth of the Gospel. John says this:

²[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger], [one who was holding] [{the} Seal] [of {the} [living] God], [coming up]

[from] [Sun's] [Sunrise]. [And] [he shouted] [in a [loud] Voice] [to The] [four] [Messengers] [to [whom] {the right} had been given] [to harm] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea], ³[saying], "[Do [not] harm] [The] [Earth] [nor] [The] [Sea] [nor] [The] [Trees] [until] [we have set a seal on] [The] [Slaves] [of our] [God]—[on] [their] [Foreheads]."
(Revelation 7:2–3) —my interim translation

Let me recap what John has written: He is *talking about* four messengers (angels) who have control over the four winds that blow on the Earth. Then he switches over and begins *talking about* a messenger who is holding God's seal. That part of what John says is fairly easy to understand, but then he says this:

[And] [he shouted] [in a [loud] Voice] [to The] [four] [Messengers] [to [whom] {the right} had been given] [to harm] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea], ³[saying], "[Do [not] harm] [The] [Earth] [nor] [The] [Sea] [nor] [The] [Trees] [until] [we have set a seal on] [The] [Slaves] [of our] [God]—[on] [their] [Foreheads]."
(Revelation 7:2b–3) —my interim translation

Now I ask you: What in the world does the "blowing" of the four "winds" have to do with the "sealing" of those who believe the Truth of the Gospel here at the End of the Age? Easy question to ask; not so easy to answer. But I am going to show you, not only what you need to know about the "winds" that "blow" here on Earth, but also what you need to know about the mind-set of the most abject of all idiots. You know, the idiot that Paul was *talking about* when he wrote this:

¹⁰[So], [to whomever] [you grant [anything] as a favor], [I {do} also]; [for] [even] [what]—[if] [anything]—[I] [was granted as a favor], [I was granted {it} [in] [The Anointed One's] [Presence] as a favor] [for] [you], ¹¹[so that] [we would [not] be taken advantage of] [by] [Satan], [for] [we are [not] those who do not understand] [his] [Thoughts].
(2 Corinthians 2:10–11) —my interim translation

Now I ask you: How in the world is anyone supposed to understand what Paul and John are *talking about*, much less what they have said? Easy question to ask; not so easy to answer. But I am going to show you what you need to know about the thoughts of Satan and the "winds" that "blow" here on Earth. Maybe

then you will have a *fighting* chance to be one of those whom the Lord is going to “seal” with His personal imprimatur now that the seventh “seal” has been removed from the Hebrew Scriptures.

In War, Accurate Information Is Essential

I used the term *fighting* in connection with the “sealing” of the Lord’s Own simply because that is what you are going to have to do if you intend to escape from this loony bin we call “Mother Earth” with your soul intact. *Just sayin’*. Only trouble is, if you don’t know how to recognize the enemy you face or how to use the weapons the Lord has provided, I seriously doubt your soul is going to leave this world alive. *Just sayin’*.

The fools who think they can waltz right into Heaven without a *fight* need to fill that vacant space between their ears with something other than the legalistic nonsense that Satan has long since passed off as “Christianity.” The lies those nitwits so avidly *want* to believe ain’t true. Never have been; never will be. But they will realize the Truth in what I am telling you much too late for it to do them any good. And if you don’t pay close attention to what I tell you here, you are going to be one of them. *Just sayin’*.

In the Book of Ephesians, Paul explains the things you need to know about the military equipment the Lord has provided for those who intend to *fight* the good fight and return “home” alive. But before I show you what Paul said, I must first tell you this: ***It is not my responsibility to ensure you use the weapons the Lord has provided; my only responsibility is to show you what they are and how to use them.*** The rest is up to you. So now that I have laid out my responsibility and yours, let’s get started. This is what Paul says:

¹⁰[From now on], [be empowered] [by] [His Majesty], [and] [by] [The] [Power] [of His] [Might]. ¹¹[*Slip on*] [All [of The] [{Living} God’s] Armor], [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven]. ¹³[For] [This Reason] [take up] [All [of The] [{Living} God’s]

Armor], [so that] [you can]: (1) [withstand {them}] [on] [The] [Day] [that is] [nasty], [and] (2) [stand], [after bringing [everything] about]. ¹⁴[Stand] [therefore]: (1) [AFTER GIRDING YOURSELF ABOUT] [YOUR] [LOINS] [WITH] [TRUTH], [and] (2) [AFTER SLIPPING ON] [THE] [BREASTPLATE] [OF THE] [DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY], ¹⁵[and] (3) [after binding sandals on] [YOUR] [FEET] [BY] [A PREPARATION*] [OF THE] [WORD OF THE GOSPEL] [OF HIS] [PEACE]; ¹⁶(4) [at] [all times] [taking up] [The] [Full-body Shield*] [of The] [Belief] [with] [which] [you will be able] [to extinguish] [all] [The] [burning] [Arrows*] [of The] [One Who Is Nasty]. ¹⁷[Also], [accept] [THE] [HELMET] [OF YOUR] [SALVATION] [and] [The] [Sword] [of The] [Spirit], [which] [is] [{any} Comment Made] [by God].

(Ephesians 6:10–17) —my interim translation

That passage will make a whole lot more sense to you if you keep in mind the fact that the Lord (“His Majesty”) is the *Living Word* of God that is found in *The Teaching of Moses*. That is what John is *talking about* in this passage:

¹[In] [The Beginning], [The] [Word] [was]; [and] [The] [Word] [was] [with] [The] [{Living} God], [and] [The] [Word] [was] [God]. ²[This Individual] [was] [in] [The Beginning] [with] [The] [{Living} God]. ³[Everything] [has come into being] [through] [Him], [and] [not even] [One Thing] [that] [has come into being] [has come into being] [apart from] [Him]. ⁴[Life] [was] [in] [Him], [and] [The] [Life] [was] [The] [Light] [of Men]. ⁵[And] [The] [Light] [is appearing] [in] [The] [Darkness], [and] [The] [Darkness] [has [not] grasped] [it]. ⁶[A Man] [who had been sent] [from] [God] [came]. [His] [Name] {was} [John]. ⁷[This Individual] [came] [for] [a Testimony], [so that] [he could provide testimony] [about] [The] [Light], [so that] [everyone] [may believe {the word of the gospel}] [because of] [Him]. ⁸[That Individual] [was] [not] [The] [Light], [but] {was} [so that] [he could provide testimony] [about] [The] [Light].

⁹[The] [Light] [was] [the] [real {Light}], [the One Who] [provides light for] [every] [Man] [who comes] [into] [The] [World]. ¹⁰[He was] [in] [The] [World], [and] [The] [World] [came into being] [through] [Him], [and] [The] [World] [did [not] know] [Him]. ¹¹[He came] [to] [His] [Own], [and] [His] [Own] [did [not] take [Him] to themselves]. ¹²[But] [as many as] [accepted] [Him], [to them]—[to those who] [believe] [in] [His] [Name]—[He gave] [Authority] [to become] [God’s] [Children]: ¹³[those

who] [were [not] engendered] [by] [Blood] [nor] [by] [{the} Will] [of Flesh] [nor] [by] [{the} Will] [of Man], [but] [by {the will}] [of God]. ¹⁴[And] [The] [Word] [became] [Flesh], [and] [He camped out] [among] [us], [and] [we got a good look at] [His] [Glory]—[like] [{the} Glory] [of an only engendered {son}] [from] [a Father], [a glory] [completely full] [of a Favor] [and] [{the} Truth]. (John 1:1–14) —my interim translation

I will assume for the moment that you know “*The Light*” is a *parabolic image* of the Truth that God has revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures, and I will also assume that you know Paul has in mind *The Teaching* when he refers to “His Majesty” and “the power of His might” in Ephesians 6:10. If you don’t, you may as well stop reading right here and go read *Mother Goose* for all the good this article will do you. Or you could go back and read (or reread) the things I have written over the past twenty-six years. Only then will you be equipped to stand your ground in the face of the idiot who is out to destroy your soul.

Paul identifies two distinct entities in the passage above. He first provides a list of the enemies that you are going to face as a True Believer; then he gives a list of the various articles of military equipment that you can use to defeat them. But those two lists won’t do you any good if you don’t know what the items on the lists actually are. So I am going to provide you an explanation. Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. Makes no difference to me one way or the other; I’m just doing what God called me to do.

The first list gives the enemies we are going to encounter in our “walk” with the Lord. Here it is:

1. the False Accuser (Satan)
2. the rulers
3. the authorities
4. the world-rulers of this nether darkness
5. the evil intention in the beings in Heaven

Just a wee bit of logic on your part should tell you Paul is referring to spiritual beings that reside in the dimension we call “Heaven” yet somehow manage to control what goes on here on Earth—what he calls “this nether darkness.” I am going to explain the nature of those spiritual beings and how they operate so that you can understand how they are very easily able to control folks like you and me.

The second list that Paul provides gives the weapons we can use against the enemies we face:

1. the ***girdle*** of the Truth
2. the ***breastplate*** of a declaration of not guilty
3. the ***sandals*** of the word of the Gospel
4. the ***full-body shield*** of belief
5. the ***helmet*** and ***sword*** of any comment made by God

In mentioning military equipment, Paul is merely playing with the *parabolic imagery* found in various things the Prophets wrote about the army of Gentiles who are going to triumphantly return “home” to the Heavenly Jerusalem, marching under the ensign of the Lord at the End of the Age. So I will set all that *parabolic imagery* aside and show you the five things Paul mentions that you really need to remember:

1. the Truth
2. a declaration of not guilty
3. the word of the Gospel
4. belief
5. any comment made by God

Now, I am going to arrange those five things into two statements to show you how all five are related. Maybe then you will understand a bit more about how God expects you to overcome the enemies True Believers face on a daily basis in this hell-hole in which we live. Here ‘tis:

1. “The Truth” {is} “any comment made by God.”
2. “Belief” {in} “the Truth”
{of} “the word of the Gospel”
{results in} “a declaration of not guilty.”

My point is, Paul is not *talking about* five totally unrelated things; he is *talking about* just one thing: *belief in the Truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures*. Therefore, if you have access to that Truth, all you have to do to defeat the enemy is to use it. But if you don’t know how to recognize the enemy when you encounter him, access to the Truth God has revealed is not going to do you much good at all. So I am first going to explain the Truth you need to know and believe; then I am going to explain who the enemy is and how you can recognize him; then I am going to explain how you can use the Truth you understand to triumph over the

enemy. I will begin by explaining how Paul viewed the five things he mentioned.

The Truth Hidden in God's Comments

Most folks who call themselves "Christians" today don't believe there is only one Truth to be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Instead, they believe there is some sort of smorgasbord of "truths" from which one just picks and chooses whatever "truth" they find most acceptable. Too bad for them. The Truth is, the Apostles fully understood the message of the Hebrew Scriptures and they made no bones about it. They also believed that anybody who believed something that contradicted the Truth they understood was not going to be saved. Paul states that emphatically in the first chapter of the Book of Galatians:

⁶[I am amazed] [that] [you are being taken back] [so] [quickly] [from] [the One Who] [invited] [you]—[by] [{the} Favor] [of The Anointed One]—[to] [a [different] Word of the Gospel], ⁷[which] [is] [not] [another {gospel}]; [except] [there are] [some] [who] [are disturbing] [you] [and] [wanting] [to alter] [The] [Word of the Gospel] [of The] [Anointed One]. ⁸[But] [even] [if] [we], [or] [a Messenger] [from] [Heaven], [should proclaim {anything}] [to you] as the word of the gospel [contrary to] [what] [we proclaimed [to you] as the word of the gospel], [let him be] [One Under the Ban]! ⁹[As] [we have stated before], [I [also] say] [again] [at this time], [if] [anyone] [proclaims {anything}] [to [you] as the word of the gospel] [contrary to] [what] [you have taken to yourselves], [let him be] [One Under the Ban]!

¹⁰[For] [am I persuading] [Men], [or] [The] [{Living} God], [at this time]? [Or] [am I seeking] [to please] [Men]? [If] [I were] [still] [pleasing] [Men], [I would] [probably] [not] [be] [a Slave] [of The Anointed One]. ¹¹[For] [I make known] [to you], [Brothers], [that] [The] [Word of the Gospel] [that] [was proclaimed] [by] [me] as the word of the gospel [is] [not] [in agreement with] [Man]. ¹²[For] [I] [neither] [received] [it] [from] [a Man], [nor] [was I taught {it}], [but] [via] [a Revelation] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One].

(Galatians 1:6–12) —my interim translation

What Paul says in that passage should settle the issue for anyone with half a brain; but unfortunately,

most "Christians" today are content to go on believing the mishmash of contradictory beliefs they have heard in the distorted remnants of the Church established by the Apostles. It has never occurred to them that the New Testament clearly reveals the leaders of the Apostolic Church believed but one Truth, and they also believed the Truth they possessed can be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Those who do not believe that have never stopped to consider the implications of a statement that Jesus made in that regard:

³¹[If] [I] [provide testimony] [about] [Myself], [My] [Testimony] [is] [not] [truthful]. ³²[The One Who] [provides testimony] [about] [Me] [is] [another], [and] [I am aware] [that] [The] [Testimony] [that] [He provides as testimony] [about] [Me] [is] [truthful]. ³³[You] [have sent] [to] [John], [and] [he has provided testimony] [about The] [Truth], ³⁴[yet] [I] [am] [not] [going to accept] [The] [Testimony] [of] [a Man]. [But] [I am saying] [These Things] [so that] [you] [may be saved]. ³⁵[That Individual] [was] [The] [Lamp] [that] [was burning] [and] [appearing], [but] [you] [were willing] [to be made jubilant] [for] [an Hour] [in] [his] [Light]. ³⁶[But] [The] [Testimony] [I] [have] [is] [more important than] [John's], [for] {My Testimony is} [The] [Works] [that] [The] [Father] [gave] [Me] [so that] [I could complete] [them]. [The] [very] [Works] [that] [I do], [it provides testimony] [about] [Me], [that] [The] [Father] [sent] [Me]. ³⁷[And] [That Individual], [The] [Father] [Who sent] [Me], [has provided testimony] [about] [Me]. [You have] [neither] [heeded] [His] [Voice] [nor] [ever] [seen] [His] [Visible Appearance]; ³⁸[and] [you do] [not] [have] [His] [Word] [remaining] [in] [you] [because] [you] [do] [not] [believe] [This Individual], [the One Whom] [That Individual] [sent]. ³⁹[You search] [The] [Writings] [because] [you] [assume] [that {you} have] [eternal] [Life] [in] [them], [and] [Those {writings}] [are] [the ones who] [provide testimony] [about] [Me]! ⁴⁰[And] [you do] [not] [want] [to come] [to] [Me] [so that] [you may have] [Life]. ⁴¹[I do] [not] [accept] [Glory] [from] [Men]! ⁴²[But] [I know] [you]—[that] [you do] [not] [have] [The] [Love] [of The] [{Living} God] [in] [yourselves]. ⁴³[I] [have come] [in] [The] [Name] [of My] [Father] [and] [you are] [not] [accepting] [Me]. [If] [another] [were to come] [in] [his] [own] [Name], [you will accept] [That Individual]. ⁴⁴[How] [can] [you] [believe {Me}] [when {you} are accepting] [Glory] [from] [one another] [and] [you are] [not] [seeking] [The] [Glory] [that is] [from] [The] [only] [{Living} God]? ⁴⁵[Do] [not]

assume] [that] [I] [will make an accusation against] [you] [to] [The] [Father]. [The one who] [is making an accusation against] [you] [is] [Moses], [in] [whom] [you] [have hoped]. ⁴⁶[For] [if] [you believed] [Moses], [you would [probably] believe] [Me], [for] [That Individual] [wrote] [about] [Me]. ⁴⁷[But] [if] [you do [not] believe] [The] [Things [That Individual] Has Written], [how] [could you believe] [The] [Comments [I] Made]?"

(John 5:31–47) —my interim translation

Jesus is making the point that all the pious, pompous, pedantic, pinheaded “scholars” of His day were more interested in using the Hebrew Scriptures to gain “glory” for themselves by showing others their great erudition than they were in actually understanding the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses* that their ancestors gave up in order to believe a lie. That same sort of sanctimoniously silly posturing on the part of pious, pompous, pedantic, pinheaded penguins is still going on in the Church today. Consequently, I have been ridiculing the ridiculous religious beliefs of “Christian” “scholars” over the past two decades because those theological boneheads have not a clue as to what the message of the Hebrew Scriptures is. Their only interest is in attaining or maintaining their reputation as a “scholar.”

Since God called me to prepare the Elect for the appearance of the Antichrist rather than preparing pious, pompous, pinheaded penguins for pedantic posturing, I am not at all concerned about my “scholarly” reputation—since I don’t have or seek one. So I am more than willing to run the risk of ruining my reputation by summarizing the message of the Old Testament in this short space:

1. Two “Adams” are mentioned in the Creation Account. The Apostle Paul *talks about* those two “Adams” in 1 Corinthians 15:45–49. Genesis 1 describes the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in the image and likeness of God on the sixth “day” of Creation; Genesis 2 describes the creation of our forefather on the third “day.” I have already explained these things in the booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God*, so there is no need to explain them here.

2. When God banned Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He gave them the promise that they

could be created in the image and likeness of God if they would only believe the promise. He also expected them to *hand down the promise* from one generation to the next as an *inheritance* that each *heir of the promise* could bequeath to *the next heir of the promise* as an *oral blessing*. The Book of Genesis is an account of how the Patriarchs did that very thing. I have already explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*, so there is no need to explain them here.

3. The central purpose of the covenant God made with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai was to unify the promise after Jacob divided it up when he blessed his sons and grandsons. Since there was no longer just one *heir of the promise* as there had been up to that time, God used the Mosaic Covenant to create *Corporate Israel*, a *corporate* body that He claimed as His Firstborn Son. That *Corporate* body functioned as a *mediator* to hold title to *the promise* until Jesus Christ became *Corporate Israel, the heir of the promise*. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel* and *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*, so there is no need to explain them here.

4. Under the terms of The Law of Moses, an individual member of Corporate Israel could be “cut off from” Corporate Israel. Various parts of that law demanded that ultimate punishment. If the sons of Israel were aware that someone had violated one of those, they were expected to execute the individual and thereby erase his name from Israel. Even if they did not do that, God would “cut him off from” *Corporate Israel*. That is, He would erase the individual’s name from the census book of Israel that He maintained. For that reason God alone knew who had been “cut off from” *Corporate Israel*, and no one else had the right to say anyone was still a member of *Corporate Israel*. I have already explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel*, so there is no need to explain them here.

5. God made two covenants with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai. The first covenant required the perfect obedience of the *Corporate* body and did not provide a means of atonement. If one individual sinned, every member of the *Corporate* body became guilty. The second covenant provided a means of atonement *for the individual*. If an individual sinned, his sin could be atoned for through a sacrificial ritual, but the *Corporate*

body still remained guilty. I have also explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*, so there is no need to explain them here.

6. *Because the sons of Israel failed to adhere to the requirements of both the first and second Mosaic Covenants, the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel promised them God would offer a New Covenant to the individual members of Corporate Israel.* He did that through the ministry of John the Baptist. But the New Covenant that the Jews accepted at that time was just like the first Old Covenant their ancestors had accepted at Mount Sinai—it provided no means of atonement. If a person sinned, he would immediately be “cut off from” Corporate Israel. So God “cut off from” Corporate Israel all the members of Corporate Israel other than Jesus Christ because they could not keep the terms of the New Covenant. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel*, so there is no need to explain them here.

7. *When Jesus Christ was baptized by John and accepted the terms of the New Covenant, He became Corporate Israel, the Heir of the promise.* Therefore, when He died, He atoned for the sins of Corporate Israel by suffering under the curses of the Mosaic Covenant. But because of His obedience to the terms of the New Covenant, God was obligated to *fulfill the promise* and resurrect Him so that He could *inherit what was promised* to Adam and Eve—creation in the image and likeness of God. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel* and in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah*® Update over the past quarter of a century, so there is no need to explain them here.

8. *When Christ died, His death invoked the terms of the oral testament He had made prior to His death.* Under the terms of that *oral testament*, all anyone has to do to *inherit the promise* is believe it—and apologize to God for the sins they have committed. Those who do that will be declared not guilty by God; those who don't, won't. I have also explained these things in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah*® Update over the past quarter of a century, so there is no need to explain them here.

For the benefit (or detriment) of those poor souls who personify the worst in all of us, I should probably

tell you I have just sketched the broad outlines of the Old Testament message the Apostles called “the Gospel.” Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. Makes no difference to me one way or the other; I'm just doing what God called me to do.

What you *choose* to do with your life is your responsibility, not mine. But if you have not yet settled accounts with the Lord, you might want to give that some thought. Just a suggestion. “*The only Way*” that anyone is going to make it out of this hell-hole with their soul intact is by first going to God with a completely broken heart, begging for forgiveness. Those who stupidly *choose* not to do that will eventually be made to realize just how stupid they are. Unfortunately, they are far too stupid to recognize their stupidity for what it is. *Just sayin'.*

In case you missed my point, in the eight paragraphs above I provided a brief summary of the five things Paul mentions in the sixth chapter of Ephesians:

1. *the Truth*
2. *a declaration of not guilty*
3. *the word of the Gospel*
4. *belief*
5. *any comment made by God*

The Ongoing Battle for Your Soul

If you intend to triumph over the enemy of your soul, you need to know the information I outlined in the eight paragraphs above; and you also need to know why you *chose* to believe them. That is because they will provide a refuge in which your soul can hide whenever you face a fierce onslaught of enemy forces. Without them, you will have nothing else you can use to defend against the lies that Satan propagates for the sole purpose of destroying the souls of men. That is, after all, his agenda:

¹²[Therefore], [Jesus] [spoke] [to them] [again], [saying]: “[I] [Am] [The] [Light] [of The] [World]! [The one who] [follows] [Me] [will] [definitely not] walk [in] [The] [Darkness], [but] [will have] [The] [Light] [of The] [Life].” ¹³[Therefore], [The] [Pharisees] [told] [Him]: “[You] [are providing testimony] [about] [Yourself]! [Your] [Testimony] [is] [not] [truthful]!” ¹⁴[Jesus] [responded] [and] [told] [them]: “[Even if] [I] [provide testimony] [about] [Myself], [My] [Testimony] [is] [truthful],

[because] [I am aware of] [where [I came] from] [and] [where] [I am going]. [But] [you] [are [not] aware of] [where [I came] from] [or] [where] [I am going]! ¹⁵[You] [judge] [with respect to] [The] [Flesh]! [I] [am [not] judging] [anybody at all]! ¹⁶[But] [even] [if] [I] [were to judge], [My] [Own] [Sentence] [is] [true]; [because] [I am] [not] [alone] {in judging}, [but] [I] [and] [The] [Father] [Who sent] [Me]. ¹⁷[But then] [even] [in] [your] [own] [Law] [it has been written] [that] [The] [Testimony] [of two] [Men] [is] [truthful]. ¹⁸[I] [Am] [the One Who] [is providing testimony] [about] [Myself], [and] [The] [Father] [Who sent] [Me] [is providing testimony] [about] [Me].” ¹⁹[Therefore], [they were saying] [to Him], “[Where] [is] [Your] [Father]?” [Jesus] [responded]: “[You know] [neither] [Me] [nor] [My] [Father]! [If] [you knew] [Me], [you would [probably] [also] know] [My] [Father]!” ²⁰[He made] [These] [Comments] [in] [The] [Treasury], [while teaching] [in] [The] [Temple]; [and] [nobody] [laid hold of] [Him], [because] [His] [Hour] [had [not yet] come].

²¹[Therefore] [He told] [them] [again]: “[I] [am going to go], [and] [you will look for] [Me], [and] [you will die] [in] [your] [Sin]! [Where] [I] [am going], [you] [can] [not] [come]!” ²²[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [were saying], “[He would [not by any means] kill] [Himself] {would He}, [because] [He says], ‘[Where] [I] [am going to go], [you] [can] [not] [come]’?” ²³[And] [He was telling] [them]: “[You] [are] [part] [of the things that are] [down below]; [I] [AM] [part] [of the things that are] [above]! [You] [are] [part] [of] [This] [World]; [I] [AM] [not] [part] [of] [This] [World]! ²⁴[Therefore], [I told] [you] [that] [you will die] [in] [your] [Sins]; [for] [if] [you do [not] believe] [that] [I] [AM], [you will die] [in] [your] [Sins]!” ²⁵[Therefore], [they were saying] [to Him], “[Who] [are] [You]?” [Jesus] [told] [them]: “[The] [Beginning]—[even] [that] [which] [I am speaking] [to you]! ²⁶[I have] [to speak] [and] [decide] [Many Things] [about] [you]; [but] [the One Who] [sent] [Me] [is] [truthful], [and] [the things that] [I] [have heard] [from] [Him], [These Things] [I speak] [in] [The] [World].” ²⁷[They did [not] know] [that] [He was talking] [to them] [about] [The] [Father]. ²⁸[Therefore], [Jesus] [told] [them]: “[When] [you elevate] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man], [you will [then] know] [that] [I] [AM]; [and] [I am [not] doing {anything}] [of] [Myself], [but] [I am speaking] [These Things] [just as] [The] [Father] [taught] [Me]. ²⁹[And] [the One Who] [sent] [Me] [is] [with] [Me]. [He has [not] left] [Me] [alone], [because] [I] [always] [do] [the things that are] [pleasing] [to Him].” ³⁰[While [He] was speaking]

[These Things], [Many] [believed] [in] [Him]. ³¹[Therefore], [Jesus] [was saying] [to] [The] [Jews] [who believed] [Him], “[If] [you] [continue on] [in] [The] [Word] [that] [I have], [you [truly] are] [My] [Disciples]; ³²[and] [you will know] [The] [Truth], [and] [The] [Truth] [will set [you] free].” ³³[They responded] [to] [Him], “[We are] [Abraham’s] [Seed] [and] [have [not] ever] been slaves to {anybody}]; [how] [can [You] say] [that] ‘[you will become] [free]’?”

³⁴[Jesus] [responded] [to them]: “[Without doubt], [without doubt], [I tell] [you] [that] [everyone] [who] [commits] [Sin] [is] [a Slave] [of his] [Sin]. ³⁵[But] [The] [Slave] [is [not] going to continue on] [in] [The] [House] [into] [The] [Age to Come]; [The] [Son] [is going to continue on] [into] [The] [Age to Come]. ³⁶[Therefore], [if] [The] [Son] [sets [you] free], [you [really] will be] [free]. ³⁷[I am aware] [that] [you are] [Abraham’s] [Seed]; [but] [you are seeking] [to kill] [Me], [because] [The] [Word] [that] [I have] [is [not] making room {for itself}] [in] [you]. ³⁸[I am talking about] [the things that] [I] [have seen] [with] [My] [Father]; [so] [you] [are, [therefore], acting in accordance with] [the things that] [you have heard] [from] [your] [Father].”

³⁹[They responded] [and] [told] [Him], “[Our] [Father] [is] [Abraham]!” [Jesus] [tells] [them]: “[If] [you were] [Abraham’s] [Children], [you would be doing] [The] [Works] [of] [Abraham]. ⁴⁰[But] [you are [now] seeking] [to kill] [Me], [a Man] [Who] [has told] [you] [The] [Truth]—[what] [I heard] [from] [The] [{Living} God]. [Abraham] [did [not] do] [This]. ⁴¹[You] [are doing] [The] [Works] [of your] [Father].” [Therefore], [they told] [Him], “[We] [were [not] engendered] [from] [Sexual Promiscuity]; [we have] [one] [Father]—[The] [{Living} God]!” ⁴²[Jesus] [told] [them], “[If] [The] [{Living} God] [were] [your] [Father], [you would [probably] love] [Me]; [for] [I] [came out] [from] [The] [{Living} God], [and] [I am going to come {again}], [for] [I did [not even] come] [because of] [Myself], [but] [That Individual] [sent] [Me]. ⁴³[Why] [do you [not] know] [What [I] Said]? [Because] [you can] [not] [hear] [The] [Word] [that] [I have]! ⁴⁴[You] [are] [part] [of your] [Father], [The] [False Accuser], [and] [you want] [to act in accordance with] [The] [Selfish Desires] [of] [your] [Father]. [That Individual] [was] [a Killer] [from] [The Beginning]; [and] [he does [not] stand] [in] [The] [Truth], [because] [Truth] [is] [not] [in] [him]. [Whenever] [he speaks] [The] [Lie], [he is speaking] [on the basis] [of his] [own {thoughts}], [because] [he

is] [a Liar], [and] [his] [own] [Father]. ⁴⁵[But] [because] [I] [am speaking] [The] [Truth], [you do] [not] believe] [Me]. ⁴⁶[Which one] [of] [you] [exposes and rebukes] [Me] [with regard to] [Sin]? [If] [I am telling {you}] [{the} Truth], [why] [do] [you] [not] believe] [Me]? ⁴⁷[The one who] [is] [part] [of The] [{Living} God] [hears] [The] [Comments Made] [by The] [{Living} God]. [For] [This Reason] [you] [do] [not] hear {them}], [because] [you are] [not] [part] [of The] [{Living} God]."

⁴⁸[The] [Jews] [responded] [and] [said] [to Him], "[Are] [we] [not] saying] [exceptionally well] [that] [You] [are] [a Samaritan] [and] [have] [a Demon]?" ⁴⁹[Jesus] [responded]: "[I] [do] [not] have] [a Demon]! [But] [I am honoring] [My] [Father], [and] [you] [are dishonoring] [Me]! ⁵⁰[But then] [I] [am] [not] seeking] [My] [Glory]; [He is] [the One Who] [is seeking]—[and] [judging]! ⁵¹[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [if] [anyone] [keeps watch over] [My] [Word], [he will] [definitely not] observe] [Death] [in] [The] [Age to Come]!" ⁵²[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [told] [Him]: "[Now] [we know] [that] [You have] [a Demon]! [Abraham], [and] [The] [Prophets], [died], [and] [You] [say], '[If] [anyone] [keeps watch over] [My] [Word], [he will] [definitely not] taste] [Death] [in] [The] [Age to Come].'" ⁵³[You] [are] [not] [more important than] [our] [Father] [Abraham], [who] [died]! [The] [Prophets] [also] [died]! [Whom] [are You making] [Yourself] out to be?" ⁵⁴[Jesus] [responded]: "[If] [I] [glorified] [Myself], [My] [Glory] [is] [nothing]. [My] [Father] [is] [the One Who] [glorifies] [Me]—[the One of Whom] [you] [are saying] [that], '[He is] [our] [God]'; ⁵⁵[and] [you do] [not] know about] [Him], [but] [I] [know] [Him]! [And if] [I said] [that] [I do] [not] know] [Him], [I would be] [a Liar] [just like] [you]! [But] [I do know] [Him], [and] [I keep watch over] [His] [Word]. ⁵⁶[Your] [Father] [Abraham] [was jubilant] [that] [he could see] [The] [Day] [that] [I have]. [And] [he saw] [it] and] [rejoiced]." ⁵⁷[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [said] [to] [Him], "[You do] [not yet] have] [fifty] [Years], [and] [You have seen] [Abraham]?" ⁵⁸[Jesus] [told] [them]: "[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [you]! [Before] [Abraham] [came into being], [I] [AM]!" ⁵⁹[Therefore], [they picked up] [Stones] [so that] [they could throw] [them] [at] [Him]. [But] [Jesus] [was hidden] [and] [came out] [of] [The] [Temple].

(John 8:12–59) —my interim translation

That passage delineates the war in which every True Believer is supposed to be engaged: The Truth of

the Living Word of God is engaged in an ongoing struggle against the lies of Satan. As Paul clearly indicates, the campaign that began at the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and concluded with His Crucifixion was but one campaign in a war that is still continuing:

¹⁰[From now on], [be empowered] [by] [His Majesty], [and] [by] [The] [Power] [of His] [Might]. ¹¹[Slip on] [All] [of The] [{Living} God's] [Armor], [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven]. (Ephesians 6:10–12) —my interim translation

Jesus Christ has already triumphed over the lies that Satan is constantly and continually foisting off on us. Jesus said so Himself, in no uncertain terms:

²⁵"[I have spoken] [These Things] [to you] [in] [Proverbs]. [An Hour] [is going to come] [when] [I will] [no longer] speak] [to you] [in] [Proverbs], [but] [I will] [candidly] report {things}] [about] [The] [Father] [to you]. ²⁶[On] [That] [Day], [you will request] {things}] [in] [My] [Name]; [and] [I am] [not] telling] [you] [that] [I] [will ask] [The] [Father] [for] [you], ²⁷[for] [The] [Father] [Himself] [is fond of] [you] [because] [you] [have been fond of] [Me] [and] [have believed] [that] [I] [came out] [from] [The] [{Living} God]. ²⁸[I came out] [from] [The] [Father] [and] [came] [into] [The] [World]. [I am going to leave] [The] [World] [again] [and] [go] [to] [The] [Father]."

²⁹[His] [Disciples] [were saying]: "[Take a look]! [You are speaking] [with] [Candor] [now], [and] [not] [telling] {us}] [a Proverb]. ³⁰[Now] [we are aware] [that] [You are aware of] [everything] [and] [do] [not] have] [Any Need] [that] [anyone] [ask] {anything} about] [You]. [By] [This], [we believe] [that] [You came out] [from] [God]." ³¹[Jesus] [responded] [to them]: "[Are you going to believe {the word of the gospel}] [at this time]? ³²[Guess what!] [An Hour] [is going to come], [and] [has] {already} come], [so that] [every one of] [you is dispersed] [to] [your] [own], [and] [you leave] [Me] [alone]. [Yet] [I am] [not] [alone], [because] [The] [Father] [is] [with] [Me]. ³³[I have spoken] [These Things] [to you] [so that] [you may have] [Peace] [in] [Me]. [You are going to have] [Turmoil] [in] [The]

[World], [but] [be courageous]; [I] [have triumphed over] [The] [World]."

(John 16:25–33) —my interim translation

The point is, the Lord has already won; now it is your turn to stand up and fight for the freedom that can only be found in the Living Word of God. The Lord states your obligation plainly in this passage:

²⁰"[Guess what!] [I am standing] [at] [The] [Door] [and] [knocking]. [If] [anyone] [heeds] [My] [Voice] [and] [opens] [The] [Door], [I will come in] [to] [him] [also], [then] [I will have dinner] [with] [him], [and] [he] [with] [Me]. ²¹[The one who] [triumphs]? [I will grant him] {the right} [to sit down] [with] [Me] [on] [My] [Throne], [as] [I also] [triumphed] [and] [sat down] [with] [My] [Father] [on] [His] [Throne]! ²²[Let the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]."

(Revelation 3:20–22) —my interim translation

It should be obvious to anyone with even a wee bit of common sense that Matthew's account of Christ's encounter with the source of all lies during His testing in the wilderness makes it clear that the Lord triumphed by maintaining His focus on the Truth found in the Hebrew Scriptures:

¹[Jesus] [was then] brought up [into] [The] [Desert] [by] [The] [Spirit], [to be tested] [by] [The] [False Accuser]. ²[And] [later], [after fasting] [forty] [Days] [and] [forty] [Nights], [He was hungry]. ³[And] [when the one who] [tests] approached, [he said] [to Him], "[If] [You are] [a Son] [of The] {Living} God, [speak] [so that] [These] [Stones] [become] [Loaves of Bread]." ⁴[But] [He], [in response], [said], "[It has been written], '[THE] [MAN] [WILL NOT] LIVE [ON] [BREAD] [ALONE], [BUT] [ON] [EVERY] [COMMENT] [THAT COMES OUT] [VIA] [God's] [MOUTH].'"

⁵[The] [False Accuser] [then] [took Him] with him [into] [The] [holy] [City] [and] [made Him] stand [on] [The] [Little Wing] [of The] [Temple]. ⁶[And] [he says] [to Him], "[If] [You are] [a Son] [of The] {Living} God, [throw] [Yourself] [down]; [for] [it has been written] [that]:

'[HE WILL GIVE A COMMANDMENT]

[TO] [His] [MESSENGERS] [ABOUT] [You],'

[and]

'[THEY WILL PICK [You] UP] [WITH] [{their} HANDS], [SO THAT NOT ONCE] [WILL You STUB] [YOUR] [FOOT] [AGAINST] [A STONE].'"

⁷[Jesus] [declared] [to him], "[Again], [it has been written]: '[YOU WILL NOT] PUT [His MAJESTY], [YOUR] [GOD], TO THE TEST.'"

⁸[Again], [The] [False Accuser] [takes Him] with him [onto] [a very] [high] Mountain [and] [shows] [Him] [all] [The] [Kingdoms] [of The] [World] [and] [their] [Glory]. ⁹[And] [he told] [Him], "[I will give] [You] [all] [These Things] [if], [after falling down], [You bow down] [to me]." ¹⁰[Jesus] [then] [says] [to him], "[Go on], [Satan]! [For] [it has been written], '[YOU WILL WORSHIP] [His MAJESTY], [YOUR] [GOD], [AND] [SERVE] [HIM] [ALONE] AS PRIEST.'" ¹¹[The] [False Accuser] [leaves] [Him] [then] [and] [guess what!] [Messengers] [approached] [and] [were serving] [Him].

(Matthew 4:1–11) —my interim translation

Jesus' encounter with the Liar would appear to have been face to face. That may or may not have been the case, but that bit of information is immaterial in your case. The Lord's turn to face the enemies of the Truth is over; it's your turn now. And your encounter with the forces of darkness is not going to be face to face. Not, that is, unless you are in the habit of talking to little green men who say funny things to amuse you. In that case, you have a somewhat slightly different issue to deal with than the one I am concerned with here.

The Truth regarding your battle against the lies of Satan is this: It is not going to take place in any face to face encounter with the Liar; it is going to take place in your mind. That is why the Apostle Paul said this:

¹¹[Slip on] [All of The] {Living} God's Armor, [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven].

(Ephesians 6:11–12) —my interim translation

The things that Paul lists after that are not only concepts that reside in your mind, they are also the very same things that Jesus used to counter the temptation of Satan. They are, in fact, the things that you are expected to use to protect your mind against the lies that Satan has assiduously inculcated into the minds of unsuspecting men over the centuries since the Early Church surrendered *The Teaching* and started to dabble in the insanely stupid *speculative* theology with which “scholars” are currently concerned. So I tell you forthrightly, God not only called me to provide what you need to triumph over the enemy, He also called me to show you how to use it. If you are too lazy to learn the things I have been called to explain, that is your concern, not mine. By the time I am done here on Planet Earth, I will have done precisely what God called me to do; and the rest will be up to you. Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to

The Winner Is the One Who Triumphs

If you have been thinking “walking in *The Way*” (an idiom) up to Heaven is a walk in the park (another idiom), that is only because the enemy already has you in a box (a third idiom). He has just been waiting for the right time to move in and make the kill. Bad for you; good for him. So if you are absolutely convinced your salvation is *already* a done deal, you are *already* one of the many millions of morons headed to Hell in a hand-basket of Satan’s own making. You obviously didn’t hear what Paul said about our battle against the lies of Satan; or if you did, you stupidly *chose* not to believe it:

¹⁰[From now on], [be empowered] [by] [His Majesty], [and] [by] [The] [Power] [of His] [Might]. ¹¹[Slip on] [All of The] [{Living} God’s] Armor], [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven]. ¹³[For] [This Reason] [take up] [All of The] [{Living} God’s] Armor], [so that] [you can]: (1) [withstand {them}] [on] [The] [Day] [that is] [nasty], [and] (2) [stand], [after bringing [everything] about]. (Ephesians 6:10–13) —my interim translation

As you probably already know, there is an assortment of dimwits and numbskulls in the Church today who firmly believe they will be saved just because they believe they will be saved. So I ask you: How stupid can they be? The Truth is, only those who triumph over the enemy are going to be saved. At least, that is what the messenger of the Lord was told to write to the Believers in the church at Smyrna:

⁸[And] [write] [to The] [Messenger] [of The] [Summoned Assembly] [in] [Smyrna], ‘[So [The] [First] [and] [The] [Last], [Who] [was] [dead] [and] [is alive], [says] this]: ⁹‘[I am aware of] [Your] [Turmoil] [and] [Extreme Poverty]—[but] [You are] [wealthy]—[and] [The] [False Religious Claim] [from] [those who] [claim] [that [they] are] [Jews] [and] [are] [nothing] [but] [a Synagogue] [of Satan]. ¹⁰[Do [not] be afraid of {anything}] [that] [You are going to] [suffer]. [Guess what!] [The] [False Accuser] [is going to] [throw] [some] [of you] [into] [a Guard House] [so that] [you are tested], [and] [you will have] [Turmoil] [ten] [Days]. [Be] [a Believer] [up to the time] [of Death], [and] [I will give] [You] [The] [Crown] [of The] [Life]. ¹¹[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]: ‘[The one who] [triumphs] [will [definitely not] be harmed] [by] [The] [Death] [that is] [second]]!’”

(Revelation 2:8–11) —my interim translation

There are several such statements in the Book of Revelation. They are part of a thunderous crescendo that winds through that work and concludes with a resounding resolution at the end. You may have missed that series of statements, so here it is:

“[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]: ‘[To the one who] [triumphs], [to [him] I will give {the right}] [to eat] [from] [The] [Tree] [of The] [Life], [which] [is] [in] [The] [Paradise] [of The] [{Living} God].”

(Revelation 2:7) —my interim translation

“[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]: ‘[The one who] [triumphs] [will [definitely not] be harmed] [by] [The] [Death] [that is] [second]]!’”

(Revelation 2:11) —my interim translation

"[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]: 'To the one who] [triumphs], [to him] [I will give] [The] [Manna] [that] [has been hidden]; [and] [I will give] [him] [a Little [white] Stone], [and] [on] [The] [Little Stone] [a [new] Name] [that has been written]—[which] [nobody] [is aware of], [except] [the one who] [accepts {it}].'"

(Revelation 2:17) —my interim translation

²⁵"[But] [hold on to] [whatever] [you have] [up to the time], [whenever] [it might be, that] [I come]. ²⁶[And] [the One Who] [triumphs] [and] [keeps watch over] [My] [Works] [up to the time] [of The] [Culmination], [To Him] [I WILL GIVE] [AUTHORITY] [OVER] [THE] [GENTILES]; ²⁷[AND] [HE WILL SHEPHERD] [THEM] [WITH] [AN [IRON] STAFF], [WHEN] [THE] [CONTAINERS] [THAT ARE] [OF EARTHENWARE*] [IS BROKEN APART]. ²⁸[Even [as] I] [received {it}] [from] [My] [Father], [I will [also] give] [him] [The] [Star]—[The] [Early Morning Star]. ²⁹[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]."

(Revelation 2:25–29) —my interim translation

⁵"[The one who] [triumphs] [will be wrapped] [in] [white] [Overgarments] [like this], [and] [I will [definitely not] wipe [his] [Name] out] [of] [The] [Book] [of The] [Life]; [and] [I will acknowledge] [his] [Name] [before] [My] [Father], [and] [before] [His] [Messengers]. ⁶[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]!"

(Revelation 3:5–6) —my interim translation

¹¹"[I am going to come] [quickly]! [Hold on to] [what] [You have], [so that] [no one] [can take] [Your] [Crown]! ¹²[The one who] [triumphs]? [I will make] [him] [a Pillar] [in] [The] [Sanctuary] [of My] [God], [and] [he will [definitely not] go] [outside] [any longer]. [And] [I will write] [The] [Name] [of My] [God] [on] [him], [even] [The] [Name] [of The] [City] [of My] [God], [The] [new] [Jerusalem] [that] [is going to come down] [out] [of] [Heaven] [from] [My] [God], [even] [My] [Name]—[My] [new {one}]. ¹³[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]."

(Revelation 3:11–13) —my interim translation

²⁰"[Guess what!] [I am standing] [at] [The] [Door] [and] [knocking]. [If] [anyone] [heeds] [My] [Voice] [and] [opens] [The] [Door], [I will come in] [to] [him] [also], [then] [I will have dinner] [with] [him], [and] [he] [with] [Me]. ²¹[The one who] [triumphs]? [I will grant] [him] [the right}] [to sit down] [with] [Me] [on] [My] [Throne], [as] [I also] [triumphed] [and] [sat down] [with] [My] [Father] [on] [His] [Throne]! ²²[Let [the one who] [has] [an Ear] hear] [what] [The] [Spirit] [is saying] [to The] [Summoned Assemblies]."

(Revelation 3:20–22) —my interim translation

⁷[And] [there was] [War] [in] [Heaven], [Michael] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waging war] [with] [The] [Sea Serpent]. [So] [The] [Sea Serpent] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waged war], ⁸[and] [they did [not] have the ability]; [neither] [was [a Place] found] [for them] [in] [Heaven] [any longer]. ⁹[And] [The] [Sea Serpent]—[The] [Most Important One], [The] [Snake], [The] [Ancient One], [the one that] [is called] [a False Accuser] [and] [Satan], [the one who] [is going to lead] [The] [entire] [Civilized World] [astray]—[was thrown down]. [He was thrown down] [to] [The] [Earth], [and] [his] [Messengers] [were thrown down] [with] [him]. ¹⁰[And] [I heard] [a [loud] Voice] [in] [Heaven], [saying]: "[At this time], [The] [Salvation] [and] [Supernatural Power] [and] [Kingdom] [of our] [God] [and] [The] [Authority] [of His] [Anointed One] [have come], [because] [The] [Accuser*] [of our] [Brothers]—[the one who] [makes accusations against] [them] [Day] [and] [Night] [before] [our] [God]—[has been thrown down]. ¹¹[And] [they] [triumphed over] [him] [because of] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Little Lamb] [and] [because of] [The] [Word] [of their] [Testimony], [and] [they did [not] love] [their] [Soul] [up to the time] [of Death]. ¹²[For] [This Reason] [celebrate], [you] [Heavens] [and] [those who] [are camping out] [in] [them]. [Woe to] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea] [because] [The] [False Accuser]—[who has] [tremendous] [Rage], [aware] [that] [he has] [just a little] [Time]—[has come down] [to] [you]."

(Revelation 12:7–12) —my interim translation

¹[And] [I saw] [another] [tremendous] [and] [amazing] [Sign] [in] [Heaven]: [Seven] [Messengers] [who have] [The] [last] [seven] [Lashes], [because] [in] [them] [The] [Rage] [of The] [Living} God] [was completed]. ²[And] [I saw {something}] [like] [a Sea] [made of glass] [that had been mingled] [with Fire], [and] [those who] [triumph] [over] [The] [Beast]

[and] [over] [his] [Image] [and] [over] [The] [Number] [of his] [Name]—[those who have] [Harps] [of The] [{Living} God]—[standing] [on] [The] [Sea] [that was] [made of glass]. ³[And] [they are singing] [The] [Song] [of Moses], [The] [Slave] [of The] [{Living} God], [and] [The] [Song] [of The] [Little Lamb].

(Revelation 15:1–3a) —my interim translation

⁸[The] [Beast] [that] [You saw] [was], [and] [is] [not], [and] [is going to] [come up] [out] [of The] [Abyss] [and] [go on] [to] [Destruction]. [And] [those who] [dwell] [on] [The] [Earth], [of whom] [The] [Name] [has] [not] [been written] [on] [The] [Scroll] [of The] [Life] [from] [World's] [Establishment], [will be amazed] [when {they} see] [The] [Beast], [because] [it was], [and] [it is] [not], [and] [it will be here]. ⁹[Here] {is} [The] [Mind] [that] [has] [Wisdom]: [The] [seven] [Heads] [are] [seven] [Mountains] [where] [The] [Woman] [is sitting] [on] [them]. ¹⁰[They are] [also] [seven] [Kings]: [The] [Five] [have fallen], [The] [One] [is], [The] [Other] [has] [not yet] [come]; [and] [when] [he comes], [he] [has to] [continue on] [just a little while]. ¹¹[And] [The] [Beast] [that] [was] [and] [is] [not] [is] [himself] [also] [an Eighth], [and] [is] [one of] [The] [Seven], [and] [he is going on] [to] [Destruction]. ¹²[And] [The] [ten] [Horns] [that] [You saw] [are] [ten] [Kings] [who] [have] [not yet] [received] [a Kingdom], [but] [they receive] [an Authority] [as] [Kings] [with] [The] [Beast] [for one] [Hour]. ¹³[These Individuals] [have] [one] [Opinion], [and] [they give] [their] [Supernatural Power] [and] [Authority] [to The] [Beast]. ¹⁴[These Individuals] [will wage war] [with] [The] [Little Lamb]; [and] [The] [Little Lamb] [will triumph over] [them], [because] [He is] [Master] [of Masters] [and] [King] [of Kings]; [and] [those who are] [with] [Him] {are} [invited] [and] [chosen] [and] [trustworthy].”

(Revelation 17:8–14) —my interim translation

¹[And] [I saw] [a [new] Heaven] [and] [a [new] Earth], [for] [The] [first] [Heaven] [and] [The] [first] [Earth] [went away], [and] [The] [Sea] [is] [not] [any longer]. ²[And] [I saw] [The] [City] [that is] [holy]—[a [new] Jerusalem]—[coming down] [out] [of] [Heaven] [from] [The] [{Living} God], [prepared] [like] [a Bride] [Who has been put together] [for] [Her] [Man]. ³[And] [I heard] [a [loud] Voice] [out] [of The] [Throne] [saying]: “[Guess what!] [The] [Tent] [of The] [{Living} God] {is} [with] [Men], [and] [He will camp out] [with] [them], [and] [they] [will be] [His] [People] [and] [He]—[The]

[{Living} God]—[will be] [with] [them] [{as} their] [God]. ⁴[And] [He will wipe] [every] [Tear] [out] [of] [their] [Eyes], [and] [The] [Death] [will] [not] [be] [any longer]; [there will] [not] [be] [neither] [Mourning] [nor] [Yelling] [nor] [Pain] [any longer], [because] [The] [First Things] [have gone away].”

⁵[And] [the One Who] [was sitting] [on] [The] [Throne] [said], “[Guess what!] [I am going to make] [everything] [new].” [And] [He says], “[Write {these things} down], [because] [These] [Words] [are] [believable] [and] [true].” ⁶[And] [He told] [me], “[They are]: ‘[I] [AM] [The] [A] [and] [The] [Z]—[The] [Beginning] [and] [The] [Culmination].’ [I] [will give] [some] [of The] [Spring] [of The] [Water] [of The] [Life] [as a bequest] [to the one who] [is thirsty]. ⁷[The one who] [triumphs] [will inherit] [These Things], [and] [I will become] [his] [God] [and] [he] [will become] [My] [Son]. ⁸[But] [for the] [cowardly] [and] [unbelieving] [and] [those who are detestable] [and] [Murderers] [and] [Sexually Promiscuous Individuals] [and] [Drug Dealers] [and] [Idolaters] [and] [all] [who are] [lying], [their] [Part] {is} [in] [The] [Lake] [that] [is burning] [with Fire] [and] [Brimstone], [which] [is] [The] [Death], [The] [Second].”

(Revelation 21:1–8) —my interim translation

Those texts offer tremendous encouragement to those who sincerely believe the Truth that God has revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. Unfortunately, a statement of a different sort is mixed in with them. That one holds no hope at all for those among us who want to go on thinking they can waltz right into Heaven and be accepted on their own terms. That is not going to happen, according to this passage:

¹[And] [I saw] [a Beast] [that has] [ten] [Horns] [and] [seven] [Heads] [coming up] [out] [of The] [Sea]. [And] [ten] [Diadems] {are} [on] [his] [Horns], [and] [Names] [of a False Religious Claim] [on] [his] [Heads]. ²[And] [The] [Beast] [that] [I saw] [was] [just like] [a Leopard*]; [and] [its] [Feet], [like] [a Bear*]; [and] [its] [Mouth], [like] [a Lion's] [Mouth]. [And] [The] [Sea Serpent] [gave] [it] [its] [Supernatural Power] [and] [its] [Throne] [and] [tremendous] [Authority]. ³[And] [one] [of] [its] [Heads] {was} [like] [one who had been slaughtered] [to] [Death] [and] [The] [Lash] [of its] [Death] [was cured]. [And] [The] [entire] [Earth] [behind] [The] [Beast] [was amazed], ⁴[and] [they bowed down] [to The] [Sea Serpent] [because] [he gave] [his] [Authority] [to The]

[Beast], [and] [they bowed down] [to The] [Beast], [say-
ing], "[Who is] [just like] [The] [Beast], [and] [who] [is
able] [to wage war] [with] [it]?" ⁵[And] [a Mouth] [that
speaks] [Tremendous Things] [and] [False Religious
Claims] [was given] [to it], [and] [it] [was given] [an
Authority] [to act] [for forty] [and] [two] [Months].
⁶[And] [it opened] [its] [Mouth] [for] [False Religious
Claims] [against] [The] [Living} God]—[to make false
religious claims about] [His] [Name] [and] [His] [Tent]—
[those who] [are camping out] [in] [Heaven].

⁷[It was **also** given] [to it] [to make] [War]
[with] [The] [Holy Ones] [and] [triumph over] [them],
[and] [Authority] [over] [every] [Tribe] [and] [People]
[and] [Tongue] [and] [Nation] [was given] [to it]. ⁸[And]
[all] [who] [are dwelling] [on] [The] [Earth] [whose]
[Name] [has] [not] [been written] [from] [The World's]
[Establishment] [in] [The] [Scroll] [of The] [Life] [of The]
[Little Lamb] [Who] [has been slaughtered] [will worship]
[it]. ⁹[If] [anyone] [has] [an Ear], [let him hear].
(Revelation 13:1–9) —my interim translation

The point of that passage is, God is going to use the Antichrist to purge His People of all who have not continued on with the commitment they made when they were born again. That is, He is going to once again "cut off from" Corporate Israel the smug and self-righteous Pretenders who think they will be saved just because they think they will be saved.

The Truth is, everyone who intends to *inherit what was promised*—that is, creation in the image and likeness of God—is going to be called upon to stand firm one final time in the face of a ferocious onslaught of the forces of darkness. Those few who triumph will gain everything the Lord *promised* so long ago; those who refuse to stand their ground and fight will receive exactly what they deserve. And I have absolved myself of all responsibility in that regard by telling it like it is. *Just sayin'*. Believe it if you care to

Now that I have done my best to incite the self-righteous fury of any pompous, pious penguin who might happen to be reading along, I'm going to tell you what the Lord expects of those who intend to be among the few left standing when the battle ends.

Without Equipment Any Military Loses

Satan is a liar. Get that firmly fixed in your mind. Without it, the battle will be lost before you even begin.

But you also need to know that every liar is a coward; he is *afraid* to face the Truth. Consequently, you can expect Satan and his minions to turn tail and run whenever they are confronted by someone who knows, and firmly believes, the Truth. But he will stand his ground and fight if he senses any uncertainty on your part. That is what James has in mind when he says this:

²[Deem {it}] [all] [Joy], [my] [Brothers], [when] [you encounter] [various] [Tests], ³[knowing] [that] [The] [Proving] [of your] [Belief] [brings about] [Perseverance].
⁴[So] [let] [your] [Perseverance] [have] [a] [complete] [Work], [so that] [you are] [complete] [and] [perfectly healthy]—[not] [lacking] [in] [any way]. ⁵[But] [if] [any] [of you] [lacks] [Wisdom], [he must request {it}] [from] [The] [Living} God]—[Who gives] [to everyone] [generously*] [and] [does] [not] [ridicule]—[and] [it will be given] [to him]. ⁶[But] [he must request {it}] [with] [Belief], [not] [doubting] [at all]; [for] [**the one who doubts**] [**is analogous**] [to a] [Sea] [Billow] [**that is being driven by the wind***] [and] [**tossed about***]. ⁷[For] [That] [Man] [must] [not] [suppose] [that] [he will receive] [anything] [from] [His Majesty]. ⁸[A] [**double-minded**] [Man] [**is**] [**fickle**] [**in**] [**all**] [**his**] [**Ways**].
(James 1:2–8) —my interim translation

It is probably not at all obvious to you, but when James mentions a "sea billow" "driven by the wind," he has in mind a statement that Isaiah made:

²⁰"[But those who are guilty] [will be driven]
[like {the} Sea],
[Because] [he is] [not] [able] [to be calm]!
[So his Waters] [drive] [Muck*] [and Mud]."
²¹[My God] [says],
"[There is not any] [Peace] [for those who are guilty]!"
(Isaiah 57:20–21) —my interim translation

In that verse, Isaiah is speaking in terms of the Canaanite religion in which the "Sea" he has in mind is the "Sea of El," which was the Canaanite god of the Underworld who held the dead captive. James knew that, so there is a whole lot more to what he had in mind than I intend to pursue here; my only concern is to enlighten you as to the "wind" he mentions. In the *parabolic imagery* of the Prophets, those "winds" constantly drive the "waters" in the "Sea of El." And the "waters" that both the Prophets and James have in

mind when they *talked about* such things are the “waters” that John mentions in this passage:

¹⁵[Then] [he tells] [me]: “[The] [Waters] [that] [You saw]—[where] [The] [Prostitute] [is sitting]—[are] [Peoples] [and] [Crowds] [and] [Nations] [and] [Tongues]. ¹⁶[And] [The] [ten] [Horns] [and] [The] [Beast] [that] [You saw]? [These Individuals] [will hate] [The] [Prostitute]; [and] [after {she} has been deserted], [they will [also] make] [her] [naked]. [And] [they will eat] [her] [Flesh], [and] [they will burn [her] up] [in] [a Fire].” (Revelation 17:15–16) —my interim translation

There are two facets to the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable in which this realm is depicted as the “Sea of El”—that is, the realm of the dead. The first has to do with our physical bodies, which are held captive in the “Sea of El.” The second has to do with the god Baal, who rose up out of the Sea of El as a mist that formed the clouds that brought the early and latter rain to the Promised Land. Both Peter and Jude mention that *parabolic imagery* when they talk about imbecilic sluggards who have given up all hope of resurrection after beginning to “walk in *The Way*”:

¹²[But] [These Individuals], [like] [irrational] [natural] [Living Creatures] [that have been engendered] [for] [Capture*] [and] [a Perishable Body]—[about] [which {living creatures}] [those who are making false religious claims] [about] [their] [Perishable Body] [do not understand]—[will [also] be corrupted]: ¹³(1) [those who are going to be harmed] [{as} a Wage] [for Immorality]; (2) [those who deem] [Pleasure] [The] [Luxury] [during] [Daytime]; (3) [those] [Stains] [and] [Blemishes*] [who are living luxuriously*] [in] [their] [Deceit], [while feasting together with] [you]; ¹⁴(4) [those who have] [restless*] [Eyes] [full] [of an Adulteress] [and] [Sin]; (5) [those who are enticing] [unsettled] [Souls]; (6) [those who, having] [a Heart] [that has been trained] [in Selfishness], {are} [Children] [of a Curse]; ¹⁵(7) [those who [straightaway] leave [{the} Way] behind]. [They have been led astray] [after taking off after {them} in] [The] [Way] [of Balaam], [the {son}] [of] [Beor*], [who] [loved] [a Wage] [of Immorality]; ¹⁶[but] [he had] [a Public Rebuke*] [for his own] [Illegality*]. [A Pack Animal] [without a voice] [that spoke something openly] [in] [a [Man's] Voice], [prevented] [The] [Insanity*] [of The] [Prophet].

¹⁷[These Individuals] [are] [Springs] [without water] [and] [Mists*] [that are being propelled] [by] [a Gale Force Wind], [for whom] [The] [Nether Gloom] [of The] [Darkness] [has been kept]. ¹⁸[For] [those who openly speak] [Pompous Things] [about Futility] [are enticing]—[through] [{the} Selfish Desires] [of {the} Flesh] [for Licentiousness]—[those who] [briefly*] [escape from] [those who] [are conducting themselves] [in] [a Deception], ¹⁹[those who are promising] [them] [Freedom] [while being] [Slaves] [of The] [Perishable Body] [themselves]; [for] [by whatever] [someone] [is overcome], [to [This] he has been made a slave]. ²⁰[For] [if] [those who have escaped from] [The] [Defilements*] [of The] [World] [by] [Full Knowledge] [of our] [Master] [and] [Savior] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [are [then] overcome] [by being entangled] [again] [in These Things], [for them] [their] [Last Days] [has become] [worse than] [their] [First]. ²¹[For] [it was] [better] [for them] [not] [to have realized] [The] [Way] [of The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [than], [after realizing {it}], [to turn back] [from] [The] [holy] [Commandment] [that was handed over] [to them]. ²²[The {reality}] [of The] [true] [Proverb] [has happened] [to them]:

“[A DOG] [THAT HAS RETURNED]
[TO] [HIS] [OWN] [VOMIT*],”

[and]

“[A Sow*], [after bathing], [to] [a Wallow*] [of Slime*].”
(2 Peter 2:12–22) —my interim translation

In that passage, Peter is using *parabolic imagery* in which those who have begun to “walk in *The Way*” and have turned back to their former “ways” ARE LIKE “mists” driven by a hurricane because he knows how the Prophets used the Canaanite mythology in which the resurrected god Baal rose up out of the “Sea” as a mist that formed the clouds on which he rode to bring the rain. Peter’s point is, the individuals he describes escaped from the “Sea” and were on “*The Way*” to the Resurrection of the Righteous; but they were driven back into the “Sea” by the “winds.” Jude uses that same *parabolic imagery*, but he stretches it a bit to indicate such people never had a solid grasp of *The Teaching* to begin with:

⁸[Likewise] [however], [These [dreaming] Individuals] [also], [on the one hand], [defile] [Flesh], [and on the

other] [disregard] [Lordship], [and on the other] [make false religious claims about] [Glory]. ⁹[But] [Michael], [The] [Chief Messenger], [when] [he was addressing himself] [to The] [False Accuser], [while being doubtful] [about] [The] [Body] [of Moses], [did [not] dare] [to impose] [{the} Sentence] [of a False Religious Claim]; [but] [he said], "[May [His Majesty] rebuke] [You]."

¹⁰[But] [These Individuals] [are, [on the one hand], making false religious claims about] [as many {things} as] [they are [not] aware of]; [but on the other], [as many things as] [they are [naturally*] cognizant of], [by] [These Things] [they are being corrupted]—[like] [irrational] [Living Creatures]. ¹¹[Woe] [to them], [because]: (1) [they have gone] [in The] [Way] [of Cain], [and] (2) [they were poured out] [in The] [Deception] [of The] [Wage] [of Balaam], [and] (3) [they were done away with] [in The] [Dispute] [of Korah*]. ¹²[These Individuals] [are] [the ones who] [are feasting together with {you}] [{as} Stains*] [at] [your] [Love {feasts}], [the ones who are shepherding] [themselves] [without fear], [Clouds] [without water] [that are being carried off] [by] [Winds], [unproductive] [late-autumn*] [Trees] [that have died] [two times], [after being uprooted], ¹³[wild] [Waves] [of a Sea] [that are churning up [their] [own] [Shame] as foam*], [wandering*] [Stars] [for whom] [The] [Nether Gloom] [of The] [Nether Darkness] [has been kept] [into] [{the} Age to Come].

(Jude 1:8–13) —my interim translation

Jude is well aware of the fact that clouds are formed by water; he is just making the point that the ignorant individuals he describes never really escaped from the "Sea" to begin with. They are instead completely unregenerate individuals who remain "wild waves" of that "Sea" while pretending to be "clouds" that have risen up out of it.

Fortunately, Peter and Jude are not alone in using *parabolic imagery* in which "winds" are not only driving totally unregenerate Pretenders but also seeking to bring regenerate Believers back under their control. The Apostle Paul provides a bit more insight into what the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable is actually describing when he talks about "billowing waves" and "wind" in this passage:

¹⁰[The One Who] [went down] [is] [Himself] [also] [the One Who] [went up]—[up above] [all] [The] [Heavens]—[so that] [He could completely fill] [Every Last Thing].

¹¹[And] [He] [gave]: (1) [some] [{as} Apostles], (2) [others] [{as} Prophets], (3) [others] [{as} Evangelists], (4) [others] [{as} Shepherds] [and] [Teachers]: ¹²(a) [for] [The] [Equipping*] [of The] [Holy Ones], (b) [for] [a Work] [of Serving], (c) [for] [Edification] [of The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]: ¹³(1) [until] [we—[Every Last One]—come down]: (a) [to] [The] [Unity] [of The] [Belief] [and] [The] [Full Knowledge] [of The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God], (b) [to] [a [complete] Man], (c) [to] [a Measure] [of a Stature] [of The] [Fullness] [of The] [Anointed One]; ¹⁴(2) [so that] [we would [no longer] be] [Toddlers] [who are being tossed about by billowing waves*] [and] [carried around]: (a) [by every] [Wind] [of their] [Teaching], (b) [by] [The] [Trickery*] [of Men], (c) [by] [Dishonesty] [because of] [The] [Tactic] [of their] [Deception]; ¹⁵(3) [but], [while speaking the truth] [in] [Love], [we would—[Every Last One]—grow] [into] [Him] [Who] [is] [our] [Head]—[The Anointed One]; ¹⁶[from] [Whom] [The] [whole] [Body]—[which is being precisely framed together] [and] [all put together] [via] [The] [Abundant Provision] [of every] [Ligament], [in accordance with] [{the} Energy] [in] [{the} Measure] [of each] [one's] [Part]—[produces], [through] [Love], [The] [Growth] [of The] [Body] [into] [His Own] [Building].

¹⁷[Therefore], [I am saying] [This], [and] [I am testifying] [in] [His Majesty], [so that [you] would [no longer] walk] [just as] [The] [Gentiles] [also] [walk]—[in] [{the} Futility] [of their] [Mind]—¹⁸(1) [those who are] [darkened] [in their] [Understanding], (2) [those who have been estranged from] [The] [Life] [of The] [{Living} God]: (a) [because of] [The] [Ignorance] [that] [is] [in] [them] (b) [because of] [The] [Hardness] [of their] [Heart], ¹⁹(3) [those who], [having become totally senseless*], [have handed [themselves] over] [to] [Licentiousness], [for] [a Business] [of all] [Uncleaness] [in] [Selfishness].

(Ephesians 4:10–19) —my interim translation

In "The Way" that Paul uses the *parabolic imagery*, "billowing waves" are false teachers and the lies that they teach is "wind." Remember that, it is significant. It is precisely the same "Way" that Peter, James, and Jude use the *parabolic imagery*. And *parabolic imagery* it is, although the "billowing waves" speaking from the pulpit today would never agree with that assessment, seeing as how they are "driven by the wind." So it is up to me to explain what you need to know.

The Truth is, the Greek-speaking people in the time of Christ knew of two kinds of “wind.” They called the first kind “*anemos*.” By their use of that word they meant the same movement of air molecules that we call “wind.” But those folks also knew of another kind of “wind,” and they called that “wind” “*pneuma*,” which is the kind of “wind” that we call “spirit.” Knowing that the Greeks considered *pneuma* a kind of “wind” is what has led translators to translate that term as “wind” in a couple of places where they have no idea what is actually being stated:

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Him by night, and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
(John 3:1–8)

Jesus is talking about the conviction of the Holy Spirit in what He says to Nicodemus, but the translator totally mangles the meaning of what Jesus says. Keep what I just told you about the “wind” of the “Spirit” in mind as you take a look at what Jesus said:

⁵[Jesus] [responded]: “[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [You]: [If] [someone] [has [not] been engendered] [by] [Water] [and] [Spirit], [he can] [not] [go in] [to] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Living} God]. ⁶[The thing that] [has been engendered] [by] [The] [Flesh] [is] [Flesh], [and] [the thing that] [has been engendered] [by] [The] [Spirit] [is] [Spirit]. ⁷[You should [not] be amazed] [that] [I told] [You], ‘[You] [have to] [be engendered] [from up above].’ ⁸[The] [Spirit] [blows] [where] [He wants], [and] [You hear] [His] [Voice], [but] [you are

[not] aware of] [where [He comes] from] [and] [where] [He is going]. [Everyone] [who] [is engendered] [by] [The] [Spirit] [is going to be] [like this].”

(John 3:5–8) —my interim translation

Jesus is merely telling Nicodemus that everyone who has been born again has had an experience in which he or she heard the “wind” of the Holy Spirit as it “blew” through their mind in the form of an intense conviction that they were sinners and needed to repent (apologize to God). If you have been born again, you know exactly what experience Jesus is talking about; if you don’t know what He is talking about, trust me, you have not been born again. The Truth regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in the minds of men today is exactly what Jesus said it would be:

²⁵[I have spoken] [These Things] [to you] [while remaining] [with] [you], ²⁶[but] [The] [Advocate]—[The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy], [the One that] [The] [Father] [will send] [in] [My] [Name]—[That Individual] [will teach] [you] [everything] [and] [remind [you] of] [everything] [that] [I] [told] [you].”

(John 14:25–26) —my interim translation

⁵[But] [now] [I am going] [to] [the One Who] [sent] [Me], [and] [none] [of] [you] [is asking] [Me], ‘[Where] [are You going?}]’ ⁶[But] [because] [I have spoken] [These Things] [to you], [Anguish] [has completely filled] [your] [Heart]. ⁷[But] [I] [am telling] [you] [The] [Truth]: [It is advantageous] [to you] [that] [I] [go]. [For] [if] [I did [not] go], [The] [Advocate] [would [not] come] [to] [you]; [but] [if] [I go], [I will send] [Him] [to] [you]. ⁸[And] [after coming], [That Individual] [will expose and rebuke] [The] [World] [about] [Sin], [and] [about] [a Declaration of Not Guilty], [and] [about] [Sentencing]. ⁹[On the one hand], [about] [Sin], [because] [they do [not] believe] [in] [Me]; ¹⁰[but on the other], [about] [a Declaration of Not Guilty], [because] [I am going] [to] [The] [Father] [and] [you are [no longer] going to observe] [Me]; ¹¹[but on the other], [about] [Sentencing] [because] [The] [Ruler] [of This] [World] [has been judged].”

(John 16:5–11) —my interim translation

There are three things the Holy Spirit “blows” through the mind of the unregenerate person when it convicts them and tries to convince them to apologize:

1. the conviction that they have sinned
2. the opportunity to be declared not guilty
3. the certainty that they are headed for Hell

If you have at any time heard the “wind” of the Holy Spirit inviting you to repent (apologize), you know precisely what mental experience Jesus is referring to in those few verses. If not, you have never received the Holy Spirit’s invitation to repent. You might want to try to rectify that situation by reading a couple of booklets I have written. The first is titled *The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ*, and the second is *7 Simple Steps to Salvation*. In those two booklets, I explain what God requires of the one who desires to be born again; but that is not what I am concerned about here. I am instead focused on the fact that the Greeks knew that *pneuma* (“spirit”) was some sort of *wind*.

The second passage in which translators translate *pneuma* as “wind” is this one:

And of the angels He says,
 “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS,
 AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.”
 (Hebrews 1:7)

The word in that verse that has been translated “winds” is *pneuma*. The verse actually says this:

[And] [on the one hand], [with regard to]
 [The] [Messengers], [He says]:
 “{This is} [THE ONE WHO] [MAKES]
 [HIS] [MESSENGERS] [SPIRITS],
 [AND] [HIS] [PRIESTLY MINISTERS] [A FLAME] [OF FIRE].”
 (Hebrews 1:7) —my interim translation

From the two texts I showed you, you should be able to see that translations today still reflect the fact that the Greeks thought of spirits (*pneuma*) as “winds.” My point is, the Greek-speaking people of that time considered every *pneuma* (spirit), whether good or bad, as some sort of “wind” that “blew” through the mind of men and could take up permanent residence in it. Jesus is referring to that belief when He says this:

⁴³[But] [when] [The] [unclean] [Spirit] [has come out] [of] [The] [Man], [he passes] [through] [Places] [without water], [seeking] [Refreshment], [and] [he does] [not] find {it}. ⁴⁴[He] [then] says: ‘[I will return] [to]

[My] [House] [from which] [I came out]’; [and] [after coming], [he finds] [one who has leisure time], [one who has been swept clean] [and] [put together]. ⁴⁵[He] [then] goes] [and] [takes] [seven] [other] [Spirits] [nastier than] [himself] [with] [him]; [and] [after coming in], [they dwell] [there]; [and] [The] [Last Days] [of That] [Man] [becomes] [worse than] [The] [First]. [It will] [also] be] [like this] [for] [This] [Generation], [which is] [nasty].”
 (Matthew 12:43–45) —my interim translation

Jesus is describing what can happen to a person who has been born again but turns away from the Truth of the Gospel to believe the lie of a “wind” that he believed before being born again. Peter makes that clear when he states the same phrase that Jesus used, but more explicitly, without the *parabolic imagery* that Jesus used:

²⁰[For] [if] [those who have escaped from] [The] [Defilements*] [of The] [World] [by] [Full Knowledge] [of our] [Master] [and] [Savior] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [are] [then] overcome] [by being entangled] [again] [in These Things], [for them] [their] [Last Days] [has become] [worse than] [their] [First]. ²¹[For] [it was] [better] [for them] [not] [to have realized] [The] [Way] [of The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [than], [after realizing] {it}, [to turn back] [from] [The] [holy] [Commandment] [that was handed over] [to them].
 (2 Peter 2:20–21) —my interim translation

The Enemy Always Uses Camouflage

I showed you what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit and unclean spirits so that you would have insight into the Greek mind-set in which the *pneuma* of both the Holy Spirit and unclean spirits is a “wind.” You need to be aware of that concept simply because the Holy Spirit is not the only “wind” (*pneuma*) that has the ability to “blow” through the minds of men. There are countless other evil “winds” that “blow” down here, and you hear their voice on a daily basis. I know that because I know they speak to you *in your mind*.

Most people aren’t even aware that evil “winds” are talking to them simply because those “winds” are abject cowards. *They masquerade as your own thoughts* so that you will not recognize them for what they are. Only after they have the constant attention of a person will they speak in such a way that the person hears

voices that seem to be audible. Even then the cowards will pretend to be God, telling the person to do this or that in the name of the Almighty God. The Truth is, the “winds” that “blow” through our minds have no power at all other than the *power of suggestion*. And that is precisely what they do:

suggest that we believe or doubt this or that
suggest that we feel or want this or that
suggest that we do this or that

It is not surprising that the “winds” that “blow” across the “waters” of this “Sea of El” in which we live would disguise themselves in some way so as not to be recognized. That approach is much more effective than coming right out and identifying themselves. If they did that, it would scare the pants off most of us.

Most people are sane enough not to act on the more obscene *suggestions* made by the “winds.” Yet we have all had that stray “thought” that came from somewhere way out in left field and made no sense at all in the context of everything else we were thinking. And every day on the evening news we hear of some sad sack who actually followed through with some sickening *suggestion* the “winds” “blew” through his mind.

I am not saying every thought we have is a “wind” speaking to us. That sad circumstance will not happen unless a person is completely dominated by them. But the “winds” will pester every True Believer a bit when they see an opportunity to bring him back under their control, so I need to explain how they operate so that you can recognize them and thwart what they are trying to accomplish. If you can’t recognize them, you certainly aren’t going to be able to triumph over them; so I am going to give you a few pointers.

The *suggestions* the “winds” “blow” fall neatly into three basic categories:

1. that you *believe or doubt* (don’t believe) something
2. that you *feel or want* something
3. that you *do* something

In most cases, the “winds” carrying those three kinds of *suggestions* work together, in tandem. The first wave will *suggest* that you *believe or doubt* something; the next will *suggest* that you *feel or want* something; the last will *suggest* that you *do* something on the basis of what you *believe, doubt, feel, and want*. They follow that

logical progression from belief to action because they know that we all *act in accordance with what we believe* and that we are more apt to act impulsively when we are *emotionally* involved.

In almost every case, the “winds” are going to *suggest* that you *doubt* what you already *believe* and *believe* more than one of their lies; that you *feel or want* more than one thing, and that you *do* something to defile your conscience. They work that way because they are trying to overwhelm you completely; and after you have done whatever they *suggested* you *do*, they move in with condemnation to get you to turn away from God and not apologize for what you did.

In every case, the “winds” are going to *suggest* that you *believe* you are the source of whatever it is they are *suggesting*. That is, they want you to *believe* that you are solely responsible for thinking whatever the “wind” “blew” through your mind. They don’t want you to know they are speaking to you, *suggesting* this or that. For that reason it is imperative that you be able to see them for who they are and know how to triumph over them. But you also need to know the direction from which they are going to attack. So here it is.

The “winds” “blow” false *beliefs* at us from all four directions, so you are going to have to be on your toes if you intend to get rid of those false *beliefs* and replace them with the Truth. But every *emotion* they “blow” at us can be categorized as one of the following two types of *feelings*:

1. *positive*
2. *negative*

The negative *emotions* the “winds” “blow” are fairly easy to recognize because they make us *feel* bad; the positive *emotions* can sometimes be nearly impossible to ferret out because they make us *feel* good. And I dare say that in nearly every case where a person is under the control of a positive “wind,” they will find it difficult to give up whatever *suggestion* they have *chosen to believe*, simply because that lie is something they *want to believe*.

Negative “winds” (*pneuma*) most often “blow” some sort of condemnation; for example, they may remind you of all the bad things you have done and say, “Hey stupid, I can’t believe you did that.” By contrast, the Holy Spirit (*Pneuma*) simply says, “You did it; you need to repent (apologize).” But the “winds” also

“blow” positive *emotions*, and those are intended to make us *feel* good about doing bad things. That’s where the sins of pride and gossip stem from. Both are bad, yet both can make us feel good.

You need to get it firmly fixed in your mind that the “winds” have nothing more than the *power of suggestion* to use against you. They cannot “blow” in the mind of anyone who has been born again if that person does not *want* them to stay and has no *doubts* about what he *believes*. So when the “winds” attack a True Believer, they are going to focus on two areas of *weakness*; and you can expect them to pester you incessantly if you exhibit either one—or both—of them. You need to know this about your situation, so listen up. The two areas of weakness are:

1. *Wants*

2. *Doubts*

Here is “*The Way*” to look at these two: *Wants* are, in one way or another, focused outward, on the physical realm in which we live; *doubts* are focused inward, on the spiritual *beliefs* that govern our behavior. If the “winds” know you *want* something, no matter how small, they are going to use that *want* against you. Their favorite tactic in this regard is to get you to *want* something you can’t have unless you sin. Guess what they are trying to get you to *do*. Doesn’t take a genius to figure that one out.

By the same token, if the “winds” know you have *doubts* about anything, especially the Truth of *The Teaching*, they are going to use those *doubts* against you. That is why knowledge of, and a firm belief in, the Truth of the Gospel and *The Teaching of Moses* is absolutely essential. If all else fails, you can seek refuge from the “winds” in the Truth you firmly believe. Their favorite tactic in this regard is to get you to *doubt* that they have to leave as soon as you recognize them and *decide* they must leave. Guess what they are trying to get you to *do*. Doesn’t take a genius to figure that one out either.

Jesus was referring to *wants* and *doubts* when He told the Parable of the Sower:

³[And] [He spoke] [Many Things] [to them] [in] [Comparisons], [saying]: “[Guess what!] [One who] [was going to sow] [went out] [to] [sow]; ⁴[and] [while] [he] [was sowing], [some] [fell] [by] [The] [Way], [and] [when

[The] [Winged Creatures] came], [they devoured] [them]. ⁵[But] [Others] [fell] [on] [The] [Rocky Places] [where] [it did [not] have] [a lot of] [Soil], [and] [it emerged] [straight off] [because of] [not] [having] [a Depth] [of Soil]. ⁶[So] [after] [{the} Sun] rose], [it was scorched]; [and] [because of] [not] [having] [a Root], [it shriveled up]. ⁷[But] [Others] [fell] [among] [The] [Thorns], [and] [The] [Thorns] [came up] [and] [choked] [them]. ⁸[But] [Others] [fell] [onto] [Soil] [that was] [exceptionally good] [and] [made] [Fruit]—[one], [one hundred], [another] [sixty], [another] [thirty]. ⁹[Let [the one who] [has] [Ears] hear].” (Matthew 13:3–9) —my interim translation

In that parable, Jesus is describing what happens in the mind of those who are listening when someone preaches the Gospel. He says there are four types of people who actually hear what was said:

¹⁸“[Therefore], [you], [hear] [The] [Comparison] [of the One Who] [sowed {the Word}]. ¹⁹[When [anyone] hears] [The] [Word] [of The] [Kingdom] [and] [does [not] comprehend {it}], [The] [One Who Is Nasty] [comes] [and] [snatches up] [the {Word} that] [has been sown] [in] [his] [Heart]. [This {Word}] [is] [the {Word} that] [was sown] [by] [The] [Way]. ²⁰[But] [the {Word} that] [was sown] [on] [The] [Rocky Places]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word] [and] [accepts] [it] [straightaway] [with] [Joy]; ²¹[but] [he does [not] have] [a Root] [in] [himself], [but] [is] [transitory]. [So] [when] [Turmoil] [or] [Persecution] occurs] [because of] [The] [Word], [he is offended] [straightaway]. ²²[But] [the {Word} that] [was sown] [into] [The] [Thorns]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word], [and] [Concern about] [The] [Current Age] [and] [The] [Deceitfulness] [of its] [Wealth] [crowd out] [The] [Word], [and] [it becomes] [unproductive]. ²³[But] [the {Word} that] [was sown] [on] [The] [exceptionally good] [Soil]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word] [and] [comprehends {it}]; [the one who], [without question], [bears [and] [produces] fruit]—[one] [one hundred], [another] [sixty], [another] [thirty].” (Matthew 13:18–23) —my interim translation

The first type of person that Jesus described could not even understand the Gospel, so he could not see what the fuss was all about to begin with. Consequently, he was not able to repent (apologize) and be born again. The other three were born again,

but only the last one actually followed through with the commitment he made to the Lord. The other two did not follow through because they failed to triumph over the “winds.” But that was only because they each had one of the two weaknesses I mentioned above:

1. *Wants*
2. *Doubts*

The type of person described in the following passage failed to triumph over the “winds” because *he had doubts* about the truthfulness of what he heard when he was born again:

²⁰“[But] [the {Word} that] [was sown] [on] [The] [Rocky Places]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word] [and] [accepts] [it] [straightaway] [with] [Joy]; ²¹[but] [he does [not] have] [a Root] [in] [himself], [but] [is] [transitory]. [So] [when [Turmoil] [or] [Persecution] occurs] [because of] [The] [Word], [he is offended] [straightaway].”
(Matthew 13:20–21) —my interim translation

The type of person described in the next passage failed to triumph over the “winds” because *he wanted* something other than the Truth he had heard:

“[But] [the {Word} that] [was sown] [into] [The] [Thorns]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word], [and] [Concern about] [The] [Current Age] [and] [The] [Deceitfulness] [of its] [Wealth] [crowd out] [The] [Word], [and] [it becomes] [unproductive].”
(Matthew 13:22) —my interim translation

The point of the Parable of the Sower is this: Only one out of three born-again Believers is actually going to triumph over the “winds” and *inherit what was promised*. So one would naturally *assume* that any reasonable, rational person who actually believes *the promise* would logically do as Paul *suggested* and assiduously seek to learn how to triumph over the “winds.” But I learned long ago that *mistaken assumptions will kill you*, so I’ll just give you this reminder and move on:

¹⁰[From now on], [be empowered] [by] [His Majesty], [and] [by] [The] [Power] [of His] [Might]. ¹¹[Slip on] [All of The] [Living] God’s Armor], [so] [that] [you]

[can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven]. ¹³[For] [This Reason] [take up] [All of The] [Living] God’s Armor], [so that] [you can]: (1) [withstand {them}] [on] [The] [Day] [that is] [nasty] [and] (2) [stand], [after bringing [everything] about]. ¹⁴[Stand] [therefore]: (1) [AFTER GIRDING YOURSELF ABOUT] [YOUR] [LOINS] [WITH] [TRUTH], [and] (2) [AFTER SLIPPING ON] [THE] [BREASTPLATE] [OF THE] [DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY], ¹⁵[and] (3) [after binding sandals on] [YOUR] [FEET] [BY] [A PREPARATION*] [OF THE] [WORD OF THE GOSPEL] [OF HIS] [PEACE], ¹⁶(4) [at] [all times] [taking up] [The] [Full-body Shield*] [of The] [Belief] [with] [which] [you will be able] [to extinguish] [all] [The] [burning] [Arrows*] [of The] [One Who Is Nasty]. ¹⁷[Also], [accept] [THE] [HELMET] [OF YOUR] [SALVATION] [and] [The] [Sword] [of The] [Spirit], [which] [is] [any] Comment Made] [by God].
(Ephesians 6:10–17) —my interim translation

In War, Superior Tactics Are Essential

Now, in case you have been thinking that you are so thankful that you have never had to deal with any of the dastardly “winds” I have been describing, I have bad news for you: The fact that you can’t recognize the “winds” *means* you are already firmly in their control. The Truth is, the Lord allows the “winds” to test every True Believer so that they have opportunity to prove their belief in *the promise*; so get over it; if you are a True Believer, you have been, and are going to be, tested by the “winds.” And James tells us exactly how the Lord expects us to respond every time the “winds” come “blowing” in. I showed you this passage earlier, but get ready to look at it from an entirely different perspective:

²[Deem {it}] [all] [Joy], [my] [Brothers], [when] [you encounter] [various] [Tests], ³[knowing] [that] [The] [Proving] [of your] [Belief] [brings about] [Perseverance]. ⁴[So] [let [your] [Perseverance] have] [a] [complete] [Work], [so that] [you are] [complete] [and] [perfectly healthy]—[not [lacking] [in] any way]. ⁵[But] [if] [any] [of you] [lacks] [Wisdom], [he must request {it}]

[from] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who gives] [to everyone] [generously*] [and] [does [not] ridicule]—[and] [it will be given] [to him]. ⁶[But] [he must request {it}] [with] [Belief], [not [doubting] at all]; [for] [the one who] [doubts] [is analogous] [to a [Sea] Billow] [that is being driven by the wind*] [and] [tossed about*]. ⁷[For] [That] [Man] [must [not] suppose] [that] [he will receive] [anything] [from] [His Majesty]. ⁸[A [double-minded] Man] [is] [fickle] [in] [all] [his] [Ways].

⁹[But] [let [The] [Brother] [who is] [humble] boast [about] [what] [he has] [on high]; ¹⁰[and then] [the one who is] [wealthy], [about] [his] [Humble State], [because] [he will pass away] [like] [a Flower] [of Grass]. ¹¹[For] [The] [Sun] [has risen] [along with] [The] [Oppressive Heat] [and] [has shriveled up] [The] [Grass], [and] [its] [Flower] [has fallen away from {it}], [and] [The] [Beauty*] [of its] [Presence] [has been done away with]. [So] [also] [the one who is] [wealthy] [will fade away*] [during] [his] [Journeys]. ¹²[A Man] [who] [continues on under] [Testing] [is fortunate], [because] [one who has come to be] [approved] [will receive] [The] [Crown] [of The] [Life] [that] [was promised] [to those who] [love] [Him]. ¹³[Let [no one] [who is being tested] say] [that] “[I am being tested] [by] [God].” [For] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [not tested*] [by Awful Things], [so] [He] [does [not] test {anybody}]. ¹⁴[But] [everyone] [who is being drawn out*] [and] [enticed] [is being tested] [by] [his] [own] [Selfish Desire]. ¹⁵[Then], [after [The] [Selfish Desire] takes hold of {him}], [it gives birth to] [Sin]; [then], [when [The] [Sin] has been accomplished], [it brings forth] [Death]. ¹⁶[Do [not] be led astray], [my] [beloved] [Brothers]. ¹⁷[Every] [good] [Thing Given] [and] [every] [complete] [Thing Offered] [is] [from up above], [coming down] [from] [The] [Father] [of The] [Lights], [with] [Whom] [there is] [not] [Variation*] [or] [Casting of a Shadow*] [by Turning*]. ¹⁸[When {He} decided], [He brought [us] forth] [by a Word] [of Truth] [so] [that] [we] [would be] [some of] [{the} First Fruits] [of His] [Creatures].

(James 1:2–18) —my interim translation

James talks about *doubting* first (vv. 6–8), then he talks about countering the *positive* and *negative emotions* the “winds” “blow” at us (v. 9). He will get around to talking about *wanting* in Chapter 4, so just wait for it. Oh, forget it! Why make you wait? Here it is:

¹[Where do [Wars] come from]? [And] [where do] [{the} Quarrels] [among] [you] come from? {Are they} [not] [from here]: [From] [your] [Pleasures], [that] [are serving as soldiers] [in] [your] [Members]? ²[You desire] [and] [do [not] have]. [You murder] [and] [eagerly seek {what you desire}], [and] [you can] [not] [gain possession of {it}]. [You quarrel] [and] [wage war]. [You do [not] have] [because] [you] [do [not] request]. ³[You request] [and] [do [not] receive], [because] [you request {something}] [awful] [so that] [you may spend {it}] [on] [your] [Pleasures].

(James 4:1–3) —my interim translation

James is talking about the very thing I have been explaining. His point is, if you are busy listening to the suggestions that the “winds” “blow” through your mind, you will be so preoccupied with all the *wants* they are “blowing” that the “Wind” we call the “Holy Spirit” won’t be able to get His Word in edgewise. So he goes on to warn us of the danger we face if we do not control the *doubts* and *wants* those “winds” seek to instill in us:

⁴[Adulteresses]! [Are you [not] aware] [that] [your] [Friendship*] [with The] [World] [is] [Hostility] [toward The] [{Living} God]? [Therefore], [whoever] [it may be who] [is determined] [to be] [a Friend] [of The] [World] [appoints himself as] [an Enemy] [of The] [{Living} God]. ⁵[Or] [do you assume] [that] [The] [Writing] [says] [without content*], “[He yearns [with] [Envy] for] [The] [Spirit] [that] [He caused to reside*] [in] [us]”? ⁶[But] [He is going to grant] [a [more tremendous] Favor]. [Wherefore], [He says], “[THE] [{Living} GOD] [IS PREPARING HIMSELF TO FIGHT] [THOSE WHO ARE ARROGANT], [BUT] [HE IS GOING TO GRANT] [A FAVOR] [TO THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE].” ⁷[Therefore], [be submissive] [to The] [{Living} God]; [but] [withstand] [The] [False Accuser], [and] [he will flee] [from] [you]. ⁸[Draw near] [to The] [{Living} God], [and] [He will draw near] [to you]. [You [Sinners], cleanse] [{your} Hands]; [and] [you [double-minded], purify] [{your} Hearts]. ⁹[Be miserable*] [and] [mourn] [and] [weep]! [Let [your] [Laughter*] be turned around*] [into] [Mourning] [and] [your] [Joy] [into] [Dejection*]. ¹⁰[Humble yourselves] [before] [His Majesty], [and] [He will elevate] [you].

(James 4:4–10) —my interim translation

When James says “You sinners, cleanse {your} hands; and you double-minded, purify {your} hearts,” he is referring to the results that stem from *wants* and *doubts*. Sin results from allowing *wants* to remain, and contamination of the Truth results from allowing *doubts* to remain. So, if you intend to *inherit what was promised*, you are going to have to get rid of those two things—completely. Nobody can do it for you, so you should probably start immediately.

Now that I have told you how to recognize the forces of Satan and how (and where) they are going to attack you, I need to explain the tactics you can use to triumph over them. Since the Apostle Paul has already listed both the defensive and offensive weapons you can use, I am going to once again remind you of what he said:

¹⁰[From now on], [be empowered] [by] [His Majesty], [and] [by] [The] [Power] [of His] [Might]. ¹¹[Slip on] [All] [of The] [{Living} God's] Armor], [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven]. ¹³[For] [This Reason] [take up] [All] [of The] [{Living} God's] Armor], [so that] [you can]: (1) [withstand {them}] [on] [The] [Day] [that is] [nasty] [and] (2) [stand], [after bringing] [everything] [about]. ¹⁴[Stand] [therefore]: (1) [AFTER GIRDING YOURSELF ABOUT] [YOUR] [LOINS] [WITH] [TRUTH], [and] (2) [AFTER SLIPPING ON] [THE] [BREASTPLATE] [OF THE] [DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY], ¹⁵[and] (3) [after binding sandals on] [YOUR] [FEET] [BY] [A PREPARATION*] [OF THE] [WORD OF THE GOSPEL] [OF HIS] [PEACE], ¹⁶(4) [at] [all times] [taking up] [The] [Full-body Shield*] [of The] [Belief] [with] [which] [you will be able] [to extinguish] [all] [The] [burning] [Arrows*] [of The] [One Who Is Nasty]. ¹⁷[Also], [accept] [THE] [HELMET] [OF YOUR] [SALVATION] [and] [The] [Sword] [of The] [Spirit], [which] [is] [{any} Comment Made] [by God].
(Ephesians 6:10–17) —my interim translation

In case you forgot, here is a summary of the five pieces of military hardware Paul said you can use to overcome the “winds”:

1. *the Truth*
2. *a declaration of not guilty*
3. *the word of the Gospel*
4. *belief*
5. *any comment made by God*

That is, in fact, the only equipment you need; but if you don't know how to use it, that equipment isn't going to do you all that much good, so I am going to tell you what you need to know in that regard. It takes four things on your part to stop the “winds” at the door:

1. *a firm belief in the Truth of The Teaching*
2. *perseverance in your commitment to the Lord*
3. *discipline in watching what enters your mind*
4. *a fierce determination to triumph over the “winds”*

There are just a few simple things you have to know to neutralize the “winds,” but if you forget (or don't believe) them, I can guarantee you that you will succumb to the “winds” in one way or the other. The first thing you need to know is something John tells us about the “winds” (spirits) that “blow” through the mind of everyone, including Believers:

¹[Beloved Brothers], [do [not] believe] [every] [Spirit], [but] [prove] [The] [Spirits]—[whether] [it is] [part] [of The] [{Living} God]—[because] [a lot of] [False Prophets] [have gone out] [into] [The] [World]. ²[By] [This] [you know] [The] [Spirit] [of The] [{Living} God]: [Every] [Spirit] [that] [acknowledges] [Jesus] [as] [The Anointed One] [Who has come] [in] [Flesh] [is] [part] [of The] [{Living} God], ³[and] [every] [Spirit] [that] [does] [not] [acknowledge] [Jesus] [is] [not] [part] [of The] [{Living} God]. [And] [This {Spirit}] [is] [The {Spirit}] [of The] [One Who Opposes the Anointing], [the one whom] [you have heard about]—[that] [he is going to come], [yet] [is] [now] [already] [in] [The] [World].

⁴[You] [are] [part] [of The] [{Living} God], [Little Children]; [and] [you have triumphed over] [them], [because] [the One Who is] [in] [you] [is] [more important] [than] [the one who is] [in] [The] [World]. ⁵[They] [are] [part] [of The] [World], [for] [This Reason] [they speak] [{as} part] [of The] [World], [and] [The] [World] [listens to] [them]. ⁶[We] [are] [part] [of The] [{Living} God]; [the one who] [knows] [The] [{Living} God] [listens to] [us]; [whoever] [is]

[not] [part of] [The] [{Living} God] [does [not] listen to] [us]. [On [this] basis], [we know] [The] [Spirit] [of The] [Truth] [and] [The] [Spirit] [of The] [Deception].
(1 John 4:1-6) —my interim translation

John is *talking about* “winds” (spirits) that “blow” a lie through our mind after we have had the misfortune of hearing it spoken by an agent of Satan. In what I have said to this point, I haven’t said much at all about hearing a “wind” spoken by some *visible* windbag that Satan has recruited, but the same rules apply. We are surrounded by people who propagate lies the “winds” have “sown” in their minds. You hear them everywhere. And the “winds” are constantly bringing to our mind lies that have been spoken by others, even those who are closest to us, and *suggesting* that we *believe* them. So the tactics I am describing here apply just as well to things you have heard *audibly*, spoken by some knucklehead who had no idea as to whether what he said was true or false. My concern here is that you learn how to recognize the “winds” that speak to you *inaudibly*.

The main thing you need to keep in mind is this: The battle you have been called to fight is *in your mind* no matter where the “wind” comes from. But my reason for showing you what John said was so that I could point out one statement he makes that you must *never doubt* or forget:

⁴[You] [are] [part] [of The] [{Living} God], [Little Children]; [and] [you have triumphed over] [them], [because] [the One Who is] [in] [you] [is] [more important] [than] [the one who is] [in] [The] [World].
⁵[They] [are] [part] [of The] [World]; [for] [This Reason] [they speak] [{as} part] [of The] [World], [and] [The] [World] [listens to] [them].
(1 John 4:4-5) —my interim translation

What John had in mind when he wrote that is this: If you have been born again, you have *received* a formal declaration of not guilty from the Lord. That declaration came in the form of a “Wind” (Spirit) that took up residence in your “heart” (mind) when you admitted you were a sinner and apologized to God. But the “Wind” (Spirit) that you *received* is not some peon “wind” like those that Satan sends out to hassle peons like you and me. It is instead the royal “Wind” that “blows” from the throne of the King of Kings and

Lord of Lords. Therefore, since the essence of that royal “Wind” resides in us, we are Children of the *Living* God—or as John says, “part of the *Living* God”—and every other “wind” has to leave our mind as soon as we identify it and *decide* that we don’t want it there.

The key is, you first have to realize that stray “winds” have been “blowing” through your mind all the time. Without that, you will go on *believing* every thought that comes into your mind, thinking it is your own. It may take you a while to learn how to *make a distinction between* your own thoughts and the things that the “winds” “blow” through, testing you to see if you will *decide* to drift on the “wind”; but if you are diligent in observing what is going on in there, you will eventually see that the “winds” are assiduously working the progression I showed you above:

1. that you *believe* or *doubt* something
2. that you *feel* or *want* something
3. that you *do* something

After you have determined that some thought is just a “wind” “blowing” through your mind, you need to make note of what it was, because it is a sure bet that you will see that same “wind” “blow” through again in the future; and you need to be able to recognize it when it comes around. That is because the “winds” have already *trained* you to react a certain way to that particular “wind,” and they are using your habitual reaction to it to control you. They began *training* you when you were young, and they are still working at it—creating you in their own image and likeness. For that reason I am going to explain how you can *retrain* yourself and *train* the “winds” to leave you alone.

As soon as you realize a stray thought is a “wind” trying to influence you in some way, you must say to yourself *immediately*, “That’s not me.” The reason for that is this: The “winds” love to make us feel bad by “blowing” a nasty thought through our mind and then condemning us for thinking that thought. Therefore, you don’t have to feel guilty for every nasty thing that finds its way into your mind. If you can identify it as a stray “wind,” you have no reason to feel guilty; but you do have to reject it as soon as it comes in. You can rely on what Paul said about that:

¹[So then] {there is} [not [now] any] [Verdict of Guilty] [on those who are] [in] [The Anointed One],

[Jesus]. ²[For] [The] [Law] [of The] [Spirit] [of The] [Life] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [has freed] [You] [from] [The] [Law] [of The] [Sin] [and] [The] [Death]. ³[For] [The] [Inability] [of The] [Law] {was} [because] [it was weak] [via] [The] [Flesh]. [The] [{Living} God], [after sending] [His] [Own] [Son] [in] [a Likeness] [of sinful] [Flesh] [and] [for] [Sin], [condemned] [The] [Sin] [in] [The] [Flesh], ⁴[so that] [The] [Requirement] [of The] [Law] [could be fulfilled] [in] [us]—[those who] [are] [not] walking [in agreement with] [Flesh] [but] [in agreement with] [Spirit]. ⁵[For] [those who] [are] [in agreement with] [Flesh] [have their mind set on] [the things] [of The] [Flesh], [but] [those who are] [in agreement with] [Spirit], [The Things] [of The] [Spirit]. ⁶[For] [The] [Mind-set] [of The] [Flesh] {is} [Death], [but] [The] [Mind-set] [of The] [Spirit] {is} [Life] [and] [Peace], ⁷[because] [The] [Mind-set] [of The] [Flesh] {is} [Hostility] [toward] [God]; [for] [it is] [not] submitted [to The] [Law] [of The] [{Living} God], [for] [it is] [not even] able. ⁸[So] [those who] [are] [in] [Flesh] [can] [not] [please] [God]. ⁹[But] [you] [are] [not] [in] [Flesh] [but] [in] [Spirit]—[if indeed] [God's] [Spirit] [is residing] [in] [you]: (1) [So] [if] [anyone] [does] [not] have [The Anointed One's] [Spirit], [This Individual] [is] [not] [His]. ¹⁰(2) [So] [if] [The Anointed One] {is} [in] [you], [on the one hand], [The] [Body] {is} [dead] [because of] [Sin]; [but on the other], [The] [Spirit] {is} [Life] [because of] [a Declaration of Not Guilty]. ¹¹(3) [So] [if] [The] [Spirit] [of the One Who] [raised] [Jesus] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [is residing] [in] [you], [the One Who] [raised] [The Anointed One] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [will] [also] [give life to] [your] [mortal] [Bodies] [via] [His] [Spirit] [residing] [in] [you].

(Romans 8:1–11) —my interim translation

The danger in what I have just told you is this: If you *accept* a “wind” that “blows” through your mind and make it your own by not *immediately rejecting* it, you become one with that “wind”—because you *believed* it—and the thought or feeling is yours. That’s just another “way” of saying, *you are what you believe*. So don’t accept a “wind” and lie to yourself, telling yourself you did not allow that “wind” to remain when the Truth is, you *wanted* to *feel* or *want* whatever it was “blowing” your way. Just confess your sin and ask for forgiveness.

When you realize a stray thought is a “wind,” you must consciously *decide* that you don’t want it there. Once you *decide* that you don’t want the “wind” in

your mind, it has to leave—*immediately*. Does that *mean* it will leave *immediately*? Of course not! What do you expect from a liar? Instead of leaving, it will *immediately* lie to you! That is, it will tell you it won’t leave and you can’t make it leave. You know, it will pull the petulant teenager routine: “I’m not going to do what you say, and you can’t make me!” But that’s just bluster, so don’t *believe* it. The “wind” has to leave, it has no choice—provided you firmly *believe* the Truth in that regard. If you don’t *believe* that the “wind” that you find repugnant has to leave, it will hang around awhile and probably bring in a few of its friends to pester you.

If you *believe* the “winds” have to leave as soon as you *decide* to boot them out, they will leave, not because they want to but because they are cowards and cannot face the Truth that you have *chosen* to *believe*. Even if, God forbid, Satan himself happened to show up, he would be compelled to leave as soon as you *decide* he has to leave. I didn’t say that, the Apostle Peter did:

⁶[Therefore], [humble yourselves] [under] [The] [strong*] [Hand] [of The] [{Living} God] [so that], [in] [Time], [He may elevate] [you], ⁷[tossing] [all] [your] [Concern] [on] [Him], [because] [He] [is concerned] [about] [you]. ⁸[Be sober]; [stay awake]! [Your] [Plaintiff] {is} [a False Accuser]. [He walks around] [like] [a growling*] [Lion], [looking for] [someone] [to swallow up]. ⁹[Withstand] [him], [solid] [in your] [Belief], [aware that] [the] [same {purposes}] [of your] [Sufferings] [are being accomplished] [in] [your] [Brotherhood] [by] [The] [World].

(1 Peter 5:6–9) —my interim translation

In that passage, Peter is *talking about* the same *mental battle* that I have been explaining here. So trust me, the “winds” that “blow” through the minds of everyone down here cannot stay in the mind of a True Believer unless that Believer has *doubts* as to whether they must leave *immediately* or *wants* to dwell on them. But don’t deceive yourself, they will *fight like the devil* to stay in your mind if you have any *doubt* that they must leave *immediately*. (That was a rather clever use of that idiom, wasn’t it?) ;-) And everything the “winds” tell you in an effort to stay in your mind will be a lie. Trust me; they can come up with some real doozies—extraordinary whoppers. And you are a fool if you *choose* to *believe* them.

The mere mention of *doubt* brings up the issue of *wants* again. If you are being troubled by “winds” that you can’t get rid of easily, that is most likely because you *doubt*, or *want* something other than, the Truth. It doesn’t matter how small the *doubt* or *want* is, the “winds” are going to batter you incessantly until you give it up. That is the reason you are being tested—so that you give up all your *doubts* and *wants*.

Nobody but you can determine what you *doubt* or *want*, so you have to do that yourself. But if you can’t determine what it is, that is only because you aren’t listening to the “Wind” that “blows” from the very throne of God. That “Wind” has been convicting you, but you haven’t been responding to it. So get on with it. If you ever intend to triumph over the “winds,” you are going to have to give up all *doubt* as well as everything you *want* down here. You can only do that by focusing on your knowledge of *the promise* of eternal life in the hereafter. *Just sayin’*.

In Conclusion

The goal of the testing by the “winds” to which every True Believer must submit is actually quite easy to understand: The Lord is seeking to transform us through the renewing of our mind so that we would have good common sense in every situation we face. I didn’t say that, the Apostle Paul did:

¹[Therefore], [I implore] [you], [Brothers], [via] [The] [Compassion] [of The] [Living} God], [to present] [your] [Bodies] [as a [living], [holy] Sacrifice], [well-pleasing] [to The] [Living} God]—[your] [logical] [Priestly Service].
²[And] [do [not] be shaped by] [This] [Current Age], [but] [be transformed by] [The] [Renewing] [of your] [Mind], [so] [that] [you] [approve of] [what] [The] [Will] [of The] [Living} God] {is}—[which is] [good] [and] [well-pleasing] [and] [complete].
³[For] [I say] [to everyone] [who] [is] [among] [you]—[via] [The] [Favor] [that] [was given] [to me]—[to [not] have a more high-minded mind-set*] [than] [the} mind-set [that] [one has to] have], [but] [to have a mind-set] [so as to] [have good common sense]—[to each one] [as much as] [The] [Living} God] [has divided out] [a Measure] [of Belief].

(Romans 12:1–3) —my interim translation

The objective the Lord is seeking to achieve in each of us through testing is a pure “heart,” that is, a

clean mind. The reason for that is, every sin begins in the “heart”—the mind. I didn’t say that, the Lord did:

¹⁶[So] [He] [said]: “[Are] [you] [even now*] [also] [lacking insight]?
¹⁷[Do you [not] understand] [that] [everything] [that] [goes in] [to] [The] [Mouth] [makes room] [in] [The] [Belly] [and] [is cast out] [into] [a Toilet]?
¹⁸[But] [the things that] [come out] [of] [The] [Mouth] [come out] [of] [The] [Heart], [and Those Things] [contaminate] [The] [Man]!
¹⁹[For] [nasty] [Speculations] [come out] [of] [The] [Heart]: [Murders], [Adulteries], [Sexual Promiscuities], [Stealing], [False Testimony], [False Religious Claims].
²⁰[These Things] [is] [the things that] [contaminate] [The] [Man], [but] [to] [eat] [with unwashed] [Hands] [does [not] contaminate] [The] [Man].”

(Matthew 15:16–20) —my interim translation

The sins that the Lord mentions in that passage all begin with the “winds” working their way through the progression that I showed you. The person who commits sin does so because he *believed* a suggestion that he *wanted* something or *felt* a certain way. Unbelievers have no way to resist those “winds,” but the True Believer has been freed from their control so that he may become the person God is seeking to create within him. But the success of that creation process depends on each one allowing the Lord to work, just as Paul says:

¹⁴[For [this] Reason] [I bend] [my] [Knees] [to] [The] [Father]—¹⁵[from] [Whom] [every] [Lineage] [in] [the} Heavens] [and] [on] [Earth] [is going to be given a name]:
¹⁶(1) [so that] [He would grant] [you] [to become strong] [in] [The] [Man] [inside {you}]: (a) [via] [His] [Spirit], (b) [in accordance with] [The] [Wealth] [of The] [Glory] [of His] [Supernatural Power];
¹⁷(2) [so that] [The] [Anointed One] would—[via] [your] [Belief]—dwell] [in] [The] [Hearts] [of you] [who have been rooted] [and] [founded] [by] [Love];
¹⁸(3) [so that] [you would be more able*] [to grasp]—[along with] [all] [The] [Holy Ones]—[what is] [its] [Breadth] [and] [Length] [and] [Height] [and] [Depth];
¹⁹[and also] (4) [so that {you} would know] [The] [extraordinary] [Love] [of The] [Knowledge] [of The] [Anointed One]; (5) [so that] [you would be filled up] [to] [all] [The] [Fullness] [of The] [Living} God].

(Ephesians 3:14–19) —my interim translation

The “Wind” within True Believers is seeking to create individuals who have both clean minds and consciences. Those who submit to that creation process will be exactly the opposite of those who claim to know God but are dominated by the “winds”:

¹⁵[Everything] {is} [clean] [to those who are] [clean]; [but] [to those who are] [defiled] [and] [unbelieving], [nothing] {is} [clean], [but] [both] [their] [Mind] [and] [Conscience] [has been defiled]. ¹⁶[They acknowledge] [that {they} know] [God], [but] [those who are] [disgusting*] [and] [disobedient] [and] [rejected] [for] [every] [good] [Work] [deny {Him}] [by their] [Works].

(Titus 1:15–16) —my interim translation

Now that we are at the End of the Age, you can expect even greater evidence that the Lord has handed this generation over to “winds” so that they readily do the things the “winds” suggest they do. Unbelievers know better, but they find it impossible to do better:

²⁸[And] [just as] [they did [not] approve of] [The] [{Living} God]—[to have {Him}] [in] [Full Knowledge]—[The] [{Living} God] [handed [them] over] [to] [a [rejected] Mind], [to do] [the things that] [are [not] right], ²⁹[after being completely filled] [with all] [Immorality], [Evil Intention], [Selfishness], [Awfulness]; [full] [of Envy], [Murder], [Conflict], [Chicanery], [Awful Morals*]; {they are} [Gossipmongers*], ³⁰[Those Who Disparage*], [God-haters*], [proud], [arrogant] [Braggarts], [Contrivers*] [of Awful Things], [disobedient] [to Parents], ³¹[lacking insight], [treacherous*], [without natural affection], [unmerciful*]; ³²[those who], [after realizing] [The] [Requirement] [of The] [{Living} God]—[that] [those who] [are involved in] [Such Things] [are] [worthy] [of Death]—[not] [only] [do] [them], [but] [are [also] delighted with] [those who] [are involved in {them}].

(Romans 1:28–32) —my interim translation

The Apostle Paul knew the characteristics of the final generation would be precisely what they are shaping up to be:

¹[But] [know] [This], [that] [in] [{The} [last] Days] [troubled] [Times] [will be current]. ²[For] [Men] [will be] [arrogant], [narcissistic*], [greedy] [Braggarts] [making

false religious claims], [disobedient] [to Parents], [ungrateful], [unholy], ³[without natural affection], [implacable*] [False Accusers] [lacking self-control*], [cruel*], [not loving what is good*], ⁴[rash] [Betrayers] [who are enshrouded in a fog], [more] [pleasure-loving*] [than] [God-loving*], ⁵[those who have] [an Outward Form] [of Godliness] [but] [have denied] [its] [Supernatural Power]. [Steer clear of*] [These Individuals] [also]. ⁶[For] [some] [of These {men}] [are] [those who] [slip in*] [to] [Houses] [and] [make [Little Women*] prisoners of war], {women who are}: (1) [heaped up] [with Sins]; (2) [being led away] [{by} various] [Selfish Desires]; ⁷(3) [always] [learning] [and] (4) [never, not once*], [able] [to come] [to] [Full Knowledge] [of {the} Truth].

(2 Timothy 3:1–7) —my interim translation

If you are an *heir of the promise* and intend to *inherit what was promised*, you are going to have to stand up and *fight* against the “winds” just as Paul admonished Timothy:

⁹[But] [those who] [are determined] [to become wealthy] [fall] [into] [Testing] [and] [a Snare] [and] [a lot of] [senseless] [and] [hurtful*] [Selfish Desires] [that] [cause [Men] to sink] [into] [Devastation] [and] [Destruction]. ¹⁰[For] [Greed*] [is] [a Root] [of everything] [that is] [awful], [{by} which] [some] [who aspire to {wealth}] [have been led completely astray] [from] [our] [Belief] [and] [have impaled*] [themselves] [with a lot of] [Great Sorrows]. ¹¹[So] [You] [flee from] [These Things], [O] [Man] [of God], [and then] [pursue] [a Declaration of Not Guilty], [Godliness], [Belief], [Love], [Perseverance], {and} [Gentle Affection*]. ¹²[Fight in] [The] [exceptionally good] [Conflict] [for our] [Belief]. [Apprehend] [The] [eternal] [Life] [into] [which] [you were invited] [and] [make] [The] [exceptionally good] [Acknowledgment] [before] [many] [Witnesses].

(1 Timothy 6:9–12) —my interim translation

Neutralizing the “Winds”

If you have been born again, you have access to a few simple techniques you can use to neutralize the most prevalent “winds.” I will explain those, then go on to talk about how you can retrain yourself and train the “winds” to leave you alone. They are never going to stop testing your resolve, but if you are diligent they will come to regret it.

Condemnation: The easiest way for you to thwart the condemnation the “winds” “blow” at all of us is to accept the fact that you are the most despicable person in the world and that you will sometimes fail to live up to the Lord’s expectations. The “winds” want you to compare yourself with others and see yourself as somehow worse than everybody else. Their goal is to get you to *want* to not be what they say you are. So get over it. Accept the fact that you are what they say you are—despicable. Then go and tell the Lord that you know you are despicable. It’s nothing to be ashamed of; we are all despicable, every last one of us. But you must couple the admission of what you are with the knowledge that the Lord will forgive any bad thing you *do* or *say* as long as you are willing to admit it and apologize. I didn’t say that, the Apostle John did:

4[We] [are [also] writing] [These Things] [so that] [our] [Joy] [may be] [fully complete]. 5[And] [This] [is] [The] [Message] [that] [we have heard] [from] [Him] [and] [are divulging] [to you]: [That] “[The] [{Living} God] [is] [Light], [and] [there is] [not] [any] [Darkness] [at all] [in] [Him]!” 6[If] [we say] [that] [we have] [Commonality] [with] [Him] [and] [are walking] [in] [The] [Nether Darkness], [we are lying] [and] [are not] acting in accordance with] [The] [Truth]. 7[But] [if] [we are walking] [in] [The] [Light] [as] [He] [is] [in] [The] [Light], [we have] [Commonality] [with] [one another], [and] [The] [Blood] [of Jesus]—[His] [Son]—[cleanses] [us] [of] [every] [Sin]. 8[If] [we say] [that] [we do [not] have] [Sin], [we are leading [ourselves] astray] [and] [The] [Truth] [is] [not] [in] [us]. 9[If] [we acknowledge] [our] [Sins], [it is] [believable] [and] [right] [that] [He would forgive] [us] [our] [Sins] [and] [cleanse] [us] [of] [all] [Immortality]. 10[If] [we say] [that] [we have [not] sinned], [we make [Him] out to be] [a Liar], [and] [His] [Word] [is] [not] [in] [us]! (1 John 1:4–10) —my interim translation

They say confession is good for the soul, and it is. So in every questionable situation, go to the Lord and apologize. Even if you don’t think you did anything wrong, tell the Lord, “I’m sorry *IF* I did.”

Superiority: If you *believe* you are better than everyone else, you have a problem—a *BIG* problem. Your problem is, the Lord is not going to forgive you until you give up that *STUPID* *belief* and accept the

fact that you are just like the rest of us, despicable. I didn’t say that; the Lord did:

9[Then] [He [also] spoke] [This] [Comparison] [to] [some] [who are] [confident] [in] [themselves] [that] [they are] [Those Who Have Been Exonerated], [even] [while viewing] [The] [Rest] with contempt]: 10“[Two] [Men] [went up] [to] [The] [Temple] [to pray]. [The] [One], [a Pharisee], [and] [The] [Other], [a Tax Collector]. 11[The] [Pharisee], [after standing up], [was praying] [These Things] [with regard to] [himself]: ‘[I thank] [You], [The] [{Living} God], [that] [indeed, **I am**] [**not**] **just like** [The] [Rest] [of Men]: [vicious], [immoral] [Adulterers], [or] [even] [like] [This] [Tax Collector]. 12[I fast] [two times] [{during} The] [Sabbath]; [I give a tenth of] [everything], [as much as] [I acquire].’ 13[But] [The] [Tax Collector], [standing] [at a distance away from {him}], [was [not] willing] [to [even] lift up] [his] [Eyes] [toward] [Heaven], [but] [he was hitting] [his] [Chest], [saying], ‘[You, [The] [{Living} God], must make atonement] [for me], [The] [Sinner].’ 14[I tell] [you], [This Individual]—[rather than] [That Individual]—[went down] [to] [his] [House] [exonerated], [because] **every-one** [who] [elevates] [himself] [**will be humbled**], [but] [the one who] [humbles] [himself] [**will be elevated**].” (Luke 18:9–14) —my interim translation

Everybody *wants* to feel superior to others—in one way or the other. But the reason we *want* to feel superior is, we are using a feeling of superiority as a coping mechanism. The “winds” first “blow” the *belief* that we are inferior, then they “blow” the *belief* that we are superior so that we can use it to alleviate the *belief* that we are inferior. You can thwart that process by accepting the fact that you are just as despicable as everybody else and admitting it.

Training: Here’s how to *retrain* yourself and *train* the “winds”: Every time you *feel* or *want* something that you can see the “winds” have *trained* you to *feel* or *want*, do this: **BE GRATEFUL**. Go to the Lord and say—*out loud, so the “winds” can hear*—“Thank You, Lord, for reminding me to praise You.” Then start praising the Lord and thanking Him for the Truth He has allowed you to understand. The “winds” hate that; so if you do it consistently, they will begin to leave you alone. And if you are truly grateful, gratitude will gradually replace the *feeling* or *want* you are trying to get rid of. ■

Continued from front cover

milk is meant the first lesson—as it were, the first food—and that by meat is meant those spiritual cognitions to which they attain by raising themselves to knowledge, let them understand that, in saying that meat is solid food, and the flesh and blood of Jesus, they are brought by their own vainglorious wisdom to the true simplicity.

For the blood is found to be an original product in man, and some have consequently ventured to call it the substance of the soul. And this blood, transmuted by a natural process of assimilation in the pregnancy of the mother, through the sympathy of parental affection, effloresces and grows old, in order that there may be no fear for the child. Blood, too, is the moister part of flesh, being a kind of liquid flesh; and milk is the sweeter and finer part of blood. For whether it be the blood supplied to the foetus, and sent through the navel of the mother, or whether it be the menses themselves shut out from their proper passage, and by a natural diffusion, bidden by the all-nourishing and creating God, proceed to the already swelling breasts, and by the heat of the spirits transmuted, [whether it be the one or the other] that is formed into food desirable for the babe, that which is changed is the blood....

Or if, on the other hand, the blood from the veins in the vicinity of the breasts, which have been opened in pregnancy, is poured into the natural hollows of the breasts; and the spirit discharged from the neighbouring arteries being mixed with it, the substance of the blood, still remaining pure, it becomes white by being agitated like a wave; and by an interruption such as this is changed by frothing it, like what takes place with the sea, which at the assaults of the winds, the poets say, “spits forth bring foam.” Yet still the essence is supplied by the blood.

Clement of Alexandria, “The Instructor,” Book i, Chap. vi, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 2, pp. 218–219.

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