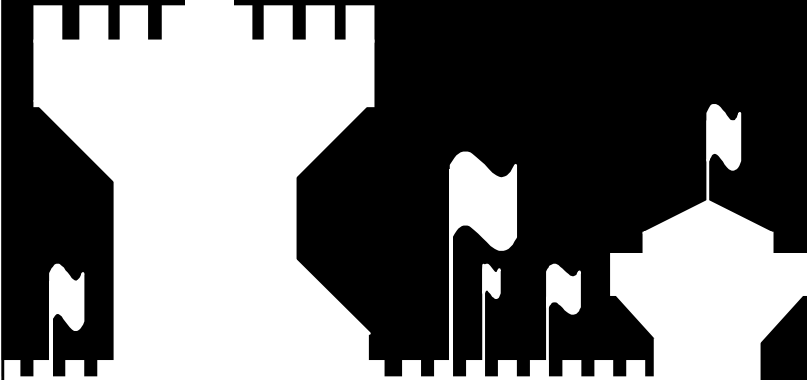


**AT WAR WITH
THE ARMIES OF
DARKNESS**

BOOK THREE OF THE
CHRISTIAN MISSION SERIES



C. H. REN

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To Kelly

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PROLOGUE

RAISING THE BANNER OF BATTLE

In the beginning, before God created the heavens and the earth, there was darkness and evil was in this darkness. This evil was formless, without consciousness and without focus, but it enduringly sought to corrupt all of God's creation. The entrenchment of evil in the spirits of the angels prevented them from uniting with God and limited them to being God's servants. While God can directly defeat evil in all of His material creations, the defeat of evil in spirits created in His image requires willingness by those spirits to reject evil and embrace Him. Eventually, the growing evil brought about the fall of one third of the community of angels, led by the most powerful among them, the archangel Satan. Yet, evil could not completely destroy God's creation. So the spirits of the fallen angels endured, trapped in everlasting darkness.

Of all God's creations, only one is pure and faultless. He, whom we call Jesus Christ our Lord, was, is, and will forever be one with God. God gave Jesus His power and authority, and called Jesus His precious Son. Using His Son as the model and making His Son the guardian, God formed a plan to create His family by growing spirits on a battlefield where evil can be exposed, contained, and defeated. On this battlefield, which we know as earth and the universe, God contained infant spirits in physical bodies so that they can grow gradually, and be shaped individually by the lives that God planned for them. In life, they will learn to fight the evil in them and in others, to the point where God can pull them to Him. On this battlefield, God permitted evil to affect the material world so that His fledgling spirits can understand the nature of evil. Onto this battlefield, He sent His army of angels to aid the fight against evil according to their capacity. Some angels loyal to the Lord became guardians, working to hold back the evil, while other corrupted angels were given jobs immersed in evil, shaping evil in ways that only God understands. Everywhere the greatness and glory of

God can be seen so that all except the most stubborn of spirits must recognize that there is God.

Yet, after thousands of years of guidance very few descendants of Adam were able to achieve the spiritual relationship with God that defeated the evil and allowed God to collect them into His presence. From the Bible, we are only given knowledge that Enoch, Moses, and Elijah were received. We also know that most of God's chosen people had to be placed in the World of the Dead to await the Word. Thus, two thousand years ago, God sent Jesus to our world to be a man. As a man Jesus passed us God's complete and perfect truth, first to God's chosen people and then carefully to the rest of world, at each nation's and person's right time. As a man, Jesus, the perfect being of Heaven, endured all the attacks of evil and shared our experience in this world. He faced the ultimate rejection of His people who demanded His crucifixion. Jesus suffered, died, and returned to God with His experience. In justice, God then created a new covenant so that all who truly follow Jesus in this world are spiritually saved and all those in the World of the Dead who spiritually awoken with the truth of Jesus will live again. There are, however, no more chances to overcome evil after death.

Those who accept God's calling to Jesus are given two powerful weapons against evil. When we embrace the Holy Bible, the truth of God lives in us. When we reach out to God in faith, the Holy Spirit enters us, creating a direct link between God and us. Through this link, the power and guidance of God flow into us in special ways, enabling our spirits to raise the truth as a sword for defeating evil. These precious weapons against evil must be used to achieve victory. Victory over evil must be total and complete. The completeness of victory does not mean that we must defeat evil by ourselves. The completeness of victory lies in our continuous fight against evil everywhere so that our combined efforts, under God's plan and with God's power, create the full family of God so all who can be saved are saved.

If we drop these weapons, the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, evil will surely hunt us down and we may not be able to pick up the weapons fast enough to defend ourselves. If we used these weapons only in an attempt to save ourselves, we would have

broken away from God's plan, and evil would have already overcome us. Christianity has never been about the selfish seeking of personal salvation. It is about one God, one perfect plan, one specially created world, one Son who leads, one united army of angels that serves, and one selected army of men and women fighting together so that all who can be saved are saved. If one thinks that he is indispensable to this conflict, he exudes arrogance. If one does not think that he is important to this conflict, he exudes ignorance. As Jesus taught us, every Christian must bear fruit. Some may only bear a few fruits, perhaps because they are either very absorbed with the fight against evil in themselves, or only capable of confronting the evil around them to a limited degree. As Paul taught, every true Christian will be persecuted, for evil will most definitely attack the forces of good.

This book marks the completion of my effort to help Christians and those who will become Christians. In Volume One, *A Journey into Christian Understanding*, I explored, with the Lord's guidance, the meaning of Christianity in a manner that will hopefully draw non-Christians to the Word and Christians towards a greater understanding of our struggles. In Volume Two, *Two Thousand Years with the Word*, I attempted, with the Lord's guidance, to partly present the perfection of the Lord's plan as Christianity spread across the world. Volume Two also serves as a defense against all those willing and unwitting servants of evil who would attack Christianity using Christian history. We Christians are weak and have made many mistakes. The Lord, however, is almighty and His plan turns all our successes, all our mistakes, and even the impact of evil into a straight and perfect path towards the coming of His Kingdom. In Volume Three, I now seek, with the help of the Lord, to formulate a few strategies in the war against evil. Those who still reject the calling of Jesus after reading the first two volumes, I hope and pray that this last volume, which directly confronts evil, will convince them to join the side of God and goodness. To my Christian brothers and sisters, I again apologize if any portion of this volume offends you. As always, I thank the Lord for His love and guidance.

Many Christians may feel uncomfortable with the emphasis of this book, for we Christians should devote ourselves to peace and love. How can we be warriors? I assure you that this war against evil is for peace and love. It has been fought since the beginning of creation and must be continued until the final coming of the Kingdom of God. This is not a war of destruction like all other wars, but is a war of salvation. The one true enemy in this war is evil, which fights against all God's creations. To win this war, evil's attacks on creation must be defeated. As Jesus said, only then can there be everlasting peace. The way to defeat evil is to grow love, for God and for one another. The way to grow love is to follow Jesus, the embodiment of love. Since this is the way Christians fight, we seek not to destroy the legions of men and angels that evil has recruited into its dark armies. Instead, we oppose their efforts, fight the evil in them, and seek to rescue their spirits. Though we may be repulsed by their deeds and desires, we must still love them as creations of the Lord and feel sadness for all who cannot be rescued from the grasp of evil. Reciprocating hate is not the Christian way. Unlike all other wars, even the weapons in this war are diametrically opposed.

The main army of darkness is a band of fallen angels led by Satan, the most powerful angel and the most consumed by evil. Yet, evil is also served by many armies of men, some allied to Satan, some tricked by Satan, but all belonging to the darkness. Long before Satan fell from Heaven, men have entered into the ranks of darkness, recruited by the evil in them. One can say that men are drawn into darkness because they are distant to God. However, how can Satan, who has reported to God for thousands of years, be God's greatest rebel? The reason may simply be that evil fueled Satan's spirit to rebel and convinced him that God's plan will fail, especially when Jesus was sacrificed for man. Satan probably believes that Christianity can be led to fall, that even those whose names are in the Book of Life can be captured by death, that God's Kingdom can be emptied, and that God's family can be divided. Satan surely rejoices with every new recruit into darkness, some willing and others deceived until they are trapped by evil. As members of God's army, we know that God's plan is perfect, that all the prophecies will

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come true, that God's will be done, and that God's Kingdom will come. We must never doubt these facts. Perhaps the hardest question about God's plan is why would God permit the vulnerable spirits to be lost to evil? While no man can understand the greatness of God, in earlier volumes I have tried to express that God in justice grants every spirit free will to reject evil and turn towards good. Even Satan will not be condemned until he has condemned himself. Some may then ask why would God not take all lost spirits before they mature or prevent them from being born? People may think this way, because we are trapped in time and our thoughts are linear. However, God is beyond time. When God created the world, He created the past, which led exactly to the present and established the future in a manner where past, present, and future form a single whole. If we can see that all spirits across time are linked, then we could see that by preventing one lost spirit from being born, thousands of God's children in the future will not be born. We must trust in God.

The irony about the armies of darkness is that their existence and power come not from evil but from God. Evil drives creation towards chaos and destruction. However, evil can only drive spirits towards hating good, for spirits cannot be destroyed. If the armies of darkness are of pure evil, they would break apart and devour each other. Instead, Satan, the ultimate betrayer, actually expects loyalty from his followers. Satan, who mocks Christian determination, is himself determined to thwart us through the centuries. Finally, the one who works to destroy what the Lord is building is himself trying diligently to build his own kingdom. These qualities of loyalty, determination, and desire to create extend not from evil but from good. In the end, the great deceiver has also deceived himself.

We in the army of the Lord, the army of light, know what we are fighting for and what we are fighting against. Jesus gathered us with love and told us everything. For all who wish to join us and carry the banner of the Lord, let us proceed and discuss strategies and tactics. For all who still wish to oppose us, I pray that the Lord will permit the words that follow to be a blow against evil's cloud of deception. I concluded Book Two with the comment that the war against

evil is far more intense now than ever before in history for the return of Jesus and the main army of light is at hand. Knowing that all things are spinning towards a major turning point where good prevails, the armies of darkness are working feverishly to capture this world before that point. Their powers grew as the spirit of man grew, for evil fed on the strength of the spirit. Today the world seems to be engulfed in anti-Christianism both by rejection and perversion of the Word. Much territory has been claimed by the armies of darkness, and we Christians so often find ourselves surrounded by opposition. In such dire moments under intense attack, we might ask why does Jesus not come and save us now? Yet, if we look again, we will see that there are still so many in this world who can be saved from evil. If the purity of Jesus' light is shined fully on these trapped souls, how many will run away in shame because of the evil in them? Thus, the arrival of the main army of light must be delayed a bit longer until we behind enemy lines complete this important rescue mission.

To help us with this rescue mission, the Lord will levy great disasters upon the world to convince people to come to Him. As people wake up in fear from evil's false pleasures, we Christians must be there to gather them to safety. However, our job is not nearly this simple, for evil and the armies of darkness will fight us on every plane and around every corner. To counter this assault we can divide our mission into three major simultaneous campaigns. The first campaign is to defend the Kingdom of God, which is being built within us, from the penetration of evil. The Holy Spirit in every true Christian is a powerful helper that shields us from evil. However, the remnants of evil will linger in us until God washes them away after this life to make us pure. Before then the shield must be held high and the power of the Word must be applied to beat down the evil that seeks to grow in us and the evil in the world that seeks to penetrate us. Knowing that Christians form the frontline of God's army, Satan's army is dedicated to crushing the frontline one Christian at a time. While the first campaign must be fought continuously to avoid immediate defeat, the second campaign to save the Church must be waged to avoid eventual defeat. Knowing that the strength of Christians lies in unity, Satan has fought since

the third century to divide and corrupt the Body of Christ. Though much success has been achieved by Satan throughout history by permission of God, the churches of Christianity today stand, weakened, disorganized, and confused, but they are not defeated. Through all the turmoil, Christianity, though divided, has matured by God's grace in different ways. Knowing that the fulfillment of God's plan is close at hand, Satan's army will fight harder to crush any and every gathering of Christians in love and fellowship. Thus, it is time for the churches to pick up the banner of battle in this second campaign and drive out the influences of evil. In so doing, all Christians may finally unite to truly be one body in Christ to fight the third campaign.

The third campaign has been fought since the beginning of Christianity, for the Word was given to us not only to defend but to attack the strongholds of evil in this world. In such attacks, often led by the army of missionaries, Christians have rescued many from the grasp of evil to join the army of Christ. The Church is built on such victories. However, while much of the army of Christ in this world has grown complacent after centuries of battle and reaping much prosperity, the armies of darkness have grown increasingly more powerful with their forces well-organized by the end of the twentieth century for the great battles ahead. If Christians do not regain and increase their dedication to the third campaign, then the world might as well be handed over to evil this day. However, this will not happen, for God's will shall be done and prophecies shall be fulfilled. As the great conflict approaches, the power of the Holy Spirit will increase many folds in the young and old so that many will proclaim the Word in strength throughout the world. When the rescue mission is done, Christ our Lord will return with the army of Heaven to lock up Satan and defeat his followers. Then, those who were stubborn and were left on this earth as non-Christians will be taught the truth of God by His first and perfect Son. Those Christians who have fought the great fight and remained true to Jesus' love will be invited to join Him in raising a new world free of Satan and his minions for one thousand years until God's plan is completed.

CAMPAIGN I IN DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT

When we were first led to Jesus, His love broke the hold of evil on our spirits, and the Holy Spirit rushed into us to form a shield against the evil outside and within. However, our spirits were still immature and vulnerable to evil. The days passed and temptations gathered around us. Sometimes we dropped the shield a little, and evil suddenly grew again in us. Other times the evil outside clung to us but could not take hold, for our spirits were strengthened by the Word, and there was no place for evil to grow. More often, however, we were distracted by the world, and the evil seeped in. Whether evil charges in or seeps in, we must rush to wield the sword of truth to confront evil in this internal battle for our spirits. When we have found and surrounded the evil in us, we can then raise it to the Lord in prayer and confession. The Lord will then instantly wipe it away. At times the Lord may permit this attack by evil to train us to hold the shield of the Holy Spirit high, to embrace the Word tighter, to keep our spirits pure as they grow, and to do some battle against evil so that we can understand the nature of evil. In fact, many of us were allowed to struggle against evil on our own to fortify our own strength before being given to Jesus. Sometimes, those who were rescued from the grasp of evil end up loving the Lord the most.

A Christian's life is not always about training, for the war against the armies of darkness has long begun. In the Lord's time we will become His instruments, His soldiers in the war that grows more intense each day. All true Christians will eventually be called to be instruments of the Lord, and all true Christians will embrace the calling. Some will fight at the center, in the heat of battle. Some will fight on the edges to block flanking attacks. Others will defend and protect the flock. The fight of a Christian warrior could be long

and hard, or it may be just one decisive blow. No matter where we fight, it is crucial that we remember that we are not alone. As one of us weakens, the rest of us must rush in to give him or her strength and shield him or her from the attacks. As we weaken, we must hold on to the Lord more tightly. In the wars of man, the young and innocent are sacrificed in body for the fates of nations. In this one true war, though the body can be sacrificed, the spirit must be triumphant for the spirits of the warriors are the most precious conditions of victory. In battle, our spirits must withstand all the attacks of the armies of darkness and rise victorious over evil. If we fight the most glorious fight against the armies of darkness but in the end allow evil to consume our spirits, it is unacceptable.

Thus, as the war intensifies and Satan's whispers in us grow louder, we must become masters of the fight in the internal battlefield of our spirits. Ironically, for many of us, though we have the power of the Word and the support of the Lord as well as fellow Christians, the inner reaches of our own spirits are still unfathomable even to us. As a result, there are many areas where evil can hide and grow. Thus, to prepare for the fight ahead, let us study the nature of man's spirit in this world and the uniqueness of each individual spirit. By developing a map of the spirit, we can then study how evil tries to grow in this spiritual terrain and how Satan with his minions will maneuver and fight. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can complete this campaign plan with a set of strategies and tactics to confront and defeat any and all forces of evil that land in us.

Ultimately, understanding one's Christian spirit and laying the plan to defend it must be a personal effort with the help of the Lord. The following discussion of the human spirit is designed to help personal discoveries. We have mentioned that this world was created by God through Jesus to grow humanity and the human spirit. Each new spirit branching from the seed of Adam must be born into this world so that it might successfully mature without being lost to evil. The qualities of strength and purity are often used to describe the spirit. Strength is the power within the spirit, and purity is the degree to which the spirit has avoided corruption by evil. When a new spirit

enters into the world, it is weak and pure. Thus, Jesus loves children and taught that we must seek the purity of children to be saved. However, a young spirit is vulnerable to evil, and evil seeks, from the moment of birth, to work its way in. Though the spirit does not know how to fight evil, its simplicity allows only a few places for evil to hide, and thus permits purity to prevail.

To be a powerful servant of the Lord, a spirit must grow into maturity by learning to use its power in accordance with the Lord's will. However, some spirits, by the Lord's plan, are received into Heaven as children to play. For the rest of us, this spiritual growth is treacherous and often painful because, as our spirits become stronger and more complex, there are more places for evil to hide and grow by exploiting our own spiritual strength. At what point in our spiritual growth is our inborn purity alone no longer sufficient for salvation? It is a question that only the Lord can answer. Thus, we should always try to help every spirit grow according to the ways of the Lord so that the Holy Spirit can enter at the earliest possible moment and with the greatest force. Ultimately, it is the Lord who knows when each spirit is ready for the Holy Spirit and how to prepare each spirit for it. In some cases the spirit is, even at an early age, sent far away from the Lord to first do battle against evil on its own. The Lord, however, abandons no spirit even though some will be of a quality that is lost to evil. In other cases, the spirit is kept sheltered within the church and given the Word early. Yet, the spirit must fully embrace the Word to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That embrace may be instant or require years of growth. On the other hand, the spirits fighting against evil on their own may be more and more corrupted, but become more powerful through the fight. In the Lord's time, such spirits will be brought to the Word, often with a sudden rushing in of the Holy Spirit to rescue them from evil. Depending on how individual spirits or whole nations are fighting against evil, the Lord may wait until after death before giving them the Word. As the spirits of people reach new heights in power with each generation, it is increasingly important that the Word be delivered to them before the completion of life. As the spirits of men reach new heights in power, the army of Christ grows in power.

With the guidance of the Lord before and after receiving the Word, the ideal growth path of a young spirit is to become powerful, remain pure, and mature in understanding the will of the Lord. This purity is achieved by training the spirit to fight against evil. The Lord even permits Satan's army to attack spirits to facilitate this training, though Satan himself probably believes otherwise. The purest of spirits became historical role models as saints. The path of growth is dangerous, for if the spirit fails its fight against evil, it can quickly become a being of darkness, like Satan. In this battle, however, complete failure does not usually come until death. While in this world, the possibility that a spirit can rise from the deepest darkness with the Lord's help generally exists. Though many of the events in our lives are provided by the Lord to push us to fight against darkness, at times the Lord also pushes us to mature with hard testing in preparation for future fights. The sanctuary of the church is one perfect place for spiritual maturation to take place. Unfortunately, despite the pushing, many spirits in this world still remain stagnant and are very vulnerable to evil, possessing not enough strength to fight evil. Many of these spirits are in jeopardy of being recruited to form Satan's human army. The importance of achieving both spiritual strength and maturity cannot be over-emphasized, for while strength gives us the ability to fight evil, spiritual maturity shows us how to fight. Basic spiritual maturity consists of an awareness of the spiritual self, God, goodness, and evil. However, true spiritual maturity must be the understanding and full embracing of God's plan and will, as taught by Jesus. It is at this level of maturity that victory over evil can be achieved, and it is at this level of maturity that we can lay our plans for the battles ahead.

A. MAPPING OUR SPIRITUAL TERRAIN FOR BATTLE

Returning to the step-by-step growth of the spirit, children grow in a similar manner physically and mentally to reflect the needs of their spirits. First, a child embodying a young spirit is gradually

given more and more mental and physical capabilities. As a result, this spiritual being is given more and more awareness of this world and power in it. Through this awareness and interaction with the world, the child experiences events that push the spirit to grow and flush out the darkness in the spirit. Through experiences with other people, the child discovers the love and goodness within the human spirit, as well as the evil that so often rules it. Even at an early age, a child may be faced with great poverty, dangers, crippling diseases, or deformities. In pain and torment, the Lord is there waiting for the growing child to turn to Him. In the Lord's arms, an adolescent will learn that with His love and power a spirit can endure any suffering of the physical world. Through this endurance the bond between the spirit and the Lord grows. Even at an early age, a child could have been abused by family members, assaulted by criminals, or rejected by society. In pain, an adolescent learns about the evil in others and feels the evil trying to work its way into his own spirit.

This exposure to evil is direct, and once in the child, it causes him to hate, become confused about life, and even lose hope. However, seeing the evil makes it easier to fight, for the evil outside draws out the true enemy, which is evil inside. If the child resists it a little, he will discover the preciousness of goodness and love. An abused child might find his own love for others. A hurt child might find sympathy for others who are hurt. A rejected child might discover compassion for all those in this world who do not belong. If the child reaches out to the Lord, the Lord will shield his spirit from the pains of the world and help him find peace and forgiveness. Not all children initially triumph over this direct confrontation with the world and evil. Thus, we must trust that all children receiving this confrontation require it in their spiritual development. Even under the harshest environments, some purity in a growing spirit remains for many years, perhaps into adulthood. Even in the perfect environment, no child is pure enough to be completely free from evil. One expression of purity is the ability to play, for through playing a child resists this world's attempt to bind his spirit. In play, a child can create a thousand realities where wonders have no limits. A pencil can become a spacecraft, and a matchbox can

become a castle. As the spirit grows, the imagination may expand and gain focus. For some, this power and freedom from the limits of this world lead to great desires to create in reflection of God the Father.

The Lord guides the growth rate of the spirit by shaping the experiences and information provided to the child. Today, children are provided with much more information than children of previous generations. Through television, Internet, and books, children instantly see all parts of human existence, the good and the bad. Through school and books, children acquire knowledge and intellectual capabilities that took the wisest of men centuries to collect. Though intelligence and knowledge are not direct reflections of the spirit, they are often given to the spirit to increase its link to and power in the world. Alternatively, when civilizations have grown to a point where increasing knowledge meant spiritual death, the Lord has wiped away such knowledge to reduce the linkage of spirits to this world and their growth. Until a child turns to the Lord for guidance, the guidance of parents and teachers is critical in shaping the spiritual growth of the child as his body and mind matures.

All children, even in the harshest environments, play and imagine. This precious ability is a result of the world being unable to capture them completely. Their purity and lack of exposure to the world permit them to create worlds of their own. Ironically, children have a better grasp of truth than many adults, for this world of ours is but temporary, like a dream. Though very important, this world, which started with but a word from God, will one day be complete. Then, we will finally be in the true reality, which is the Kingdom of the Lord. We have said that as the child matures, his ability to play also increases because of greater consciousness. However, at the same time the world increases its hold on the child with more and more intense experiences that compel the child to only think and dream about this world. Sometimes the world traps by hardships, and other times the world traps by pleasures. Either way, we must always have faith in the Lord's plan for our spirits to triumph. While some are captured by the world, strong children retain their ability to play

and imagine long into adulthood. Though this is far better than being a slave to this world, such strength could become a hindrance for the young adult in finding the Lord, for many in rejecting this world turn towards their own powers and their own realities. When the growth of spiritual strength has outpaced the growth in maturity, sometimes the strength could be overwhelming and used poorly in a way that hinders maturity. If not rescued, evil will eventually penetrate the private realities or fantasies, no matter how strong the individual. These powerful lost sheep are often the hardest to retrieve, for the shepherd sent to gather them must be as powerful as they. This power is often manifested in the form of extreme intellect, unique awareness of the world, and social non-conformity.

The Nature of Physical Maturity

A child matures in the body first, and that maturity comes with immediate ties to the world. As soon as or before a child is physically strong enough, the world demands that child or young adult work to survive. While that work in the few fortunate countries could be delayed and matched with personal interests, most of the people in the world toil endlessly in physically and mentally draining jobs just to make ends meet. Even in the most fortunate countries where physical labor is eliminated for many, the society that man has created finds ways to create jobs that drain the mind and body through stress/fatigue, and establishes lifestyles of such complexity that all sense of self could be lost. The demands of work create a parallel demand for rest and entertainment. In such needs the world also tightens its grasp. Cultures of high stress often yield excessive indulgence in physical pleasures. Alternatively, in some cultures where physical pleasures are readily available, the people can be totally consumed by such activities.

Beyond the basic needs of nourishment, rest/relaxation, comfort, and sensory stimulation, the mature physical body is generally provided with a biochemical demand for sexual activity which promotes the physical continuation of man. The satisfaction of this demand, like all other pleasures, such as eating, sleeping, enjoyment of art, and playing, is planned for and condoned by the Lord. When conducted in the right context with the right understanding,

it provides us with a reflection of Heaven. The enjoyment of eating fine foods is a shadow of the enjoyment in receiving the food of the spirit. The greatest artistic accomplishments of man pale in comparison to the wonders of God's creation in this world, and the greatest of God's wondrous temporary creations are a shadow of His coming Kingdom. So, it is also true that the physical union of man and woman in sexual relations is but a shadow of the greater pleasures in the union of spirits in Heaven. As man is vulnerable to gluttony and laziness, so is he vulnerable especially to lust. As humanity matured, however, lust was less and less tolerated by the Lord. With the Jews, the Lord imposed strict laws to prevent lust from betraying commitment in relations. While lust may make man hunger for many women, the Lord's laws demanded that a man marry and care for all the women whom he hungered for. With the maturity given to Christians, the Lord taught us that physical desires should complement a commitment to a much higher spiritual relationship that, in this physical world, can only be achieved between one man and one woman. This does not mean that there is only one spirit right to unite with each of us, for in Heaven we shall all be united. Instead, this means that, while in a physical body, a person only has enough energy, time, and focus to devote to one union. If that union is divided by the death or betrayal of one side, the survivor is permitted by the Lord to seek another companion. Christians should, however, let the Lord guide them to unions that best serve our spiritual growth and His will. Also, as Paul instructed us, if a Christian can achieve such a relation with the Lord that there is no longer spiritual energy left to hunger for marriage, then that is perhaps better.

The above lesson by the Lord does not necessarily mean that Christians, especially in youth, must be free from physical attractions and thoughts. In suppressing them, we may also suppress a part of our ability to love and care. Instead, we must understand such feelings and learn not to let them lead us to embrace desires and actions that would betray the greater bond between people. This betrayal comes when we think about creating temporary, perhaps even deceptive, relations just to achieve physical satisfaction. This betrayal comes when we break commitments and/or lead others to

break commitments to spouses to attain physical satisfaction. Such desires are against the spirit. Naturally, young people will be dominated by physical thoughts as their spirits are overwhelmed in the maturation process, and many marriages are created by physical attraction. Such attraction has created many wonderful opportunities for people to grow together so that eventually the intertwining of their spirits far surpasses the embrace of bodies. Then, the embrace of bodies becomes an instrument to express deeper love until such love can reach Heaven, where it is replaced by the full union of spirits.

Because of the importance of sexual maturity as a prelude to a new dynamics in spiritual growth, it can often be considered as a determining criterion for physical maturity. With marriage, a young adult not only starts a new spiritual bond but also breaks away from the physical and spiritual dependence on his parents. His mind and spirit must then grow with the body to take on the responsibility that is a part of love. His must care instead of being cared for. He must protect instead of being protected. As his family grows, so does the Kingdom of God grow. The onset of this physical maturation process typically brings great mental and spiritual confusion as discussed. As the spirit of man grew stronger through the centuries, the duration and intensity of this confusion have increased because it is harder to align the spirit with the body. Thus, while the youths in ancient times would marry at the age of fourteen, youths today may wish to wait until the overwhelming process of physical, mental, and spiritual maturation has stabilized before committing to the greatest bond in this world.

Not all of us mature in physical strength; many are born with illness or disabilities that continue into adulthood. Others develop these afflictions as they grow. They face physical demands unimaginable by those who are healthy. As the Bible teaches us, these conditions are placed on people either to help them triumph over personal spiritual obstacles, allowing them to be an inspiration of human strength to others, or allowing them to become symbols of God's glory. As an example, a child who would have grown up to pursue wealth and fame might be transformed by lifelong illness to serve the Lord and show compassion to all others who suffer. For

example, when we see a disabled person living his life with joy and love, we can find no excuse for hating our lives or being dragged down by the troubles of this world. While most of us are eager to blame the Lord for our troubles, few of us are willing to see that the good things in our lives are also from the Lord. Sadly, often those who are given more actually expect more. The most special among those who suffer are those who seek the Lord and are healed by the Lord with a miracle. Their suffering is to serve as a testimony to the power and glory of the Lord so that everyone's faith may be strengthened.

We who are fairly healthy cannot pretend to feel the suffering of those with lifelong physical illness or disability. All we can do is to love and care for them. The Lord in little ways, colds and flu for instance, reminds the rest of us that the body along with this world is but temporary. This reminder increases as we age and our bodies breakdown.

Not all of us mature physically and mentally to permit the union of marriage. Though rare, some people do physically and/or mentally mature to be between the sexes. Some people mentally mature to have physical attractions to members of the same sex. For centuries they have been persecuted as abnormalities or sinners. Then in complete reversal, homosexual practices were accepted and even imitated in the latter part of the twentieth century. Christianity teaches that neither of these reactions is correct. Homosexual attraction is a spiritual struggle permitted by the Lord. Yielding to such attractions in behavior or thought damages the spirit, and the Lord hates such spiritual surrendering. Clearly, the societal acceptance of homosexuality will lead to its spread into the ranks of those who could have triumphed with the proper guidance. Christianity is not about suppressing such physical attraction in guilt or shame, nor is it about condemning those who have fallen in this struggle. If such desires have led people into evil's trap where the brotherhood of men has been destroyed, then the Lord will judge the fallen in His time and His way.

Christians should focus on why some spirits develop homosexual attraction and help those spirits to see the truth. This understanding may stem from the fact that in Heaven there will be no

sexual distinctions and we will all be united. Therefore, in some of us with greater spiritual sensitivity, physical differences, or severe emotional traumas in youth, desires for the same sex emerge. This is not obscene but a sign that one is confused about the role of the body as an instrument to grow the spirit. This erroneous connection between the spirit and the body is rectified through understanding. People of the same sex have the potential to achieve a level of spiritual closeness through friendship and comradery that physical desires will hinder. Imagine a group of friends sharing good times and hard times in trust and support. When possessiveness and jealousy are introduced, then all is lost. Possessiveness and jealousy are unavoidable parts of physical relations because our physical forms are limited in what they can give. Thus, in the case of man, who is given more responsibilities by the Lord, homosexual behavior and even desires were strictly prohibited and severely punishable in the days of old. For Christians under such testing, the spiritual battle after acquiring this understanding is to fight past these confusing passions that will dissipate after youth with the power of the Holy Spirit. Never fear exposing such spiritual difficulties to the Lord, asking Him for help, for the Lord's judgment is only for those who have embraced spiritual defeat. All Christians, those who are struggling and those who seek to help, should in the end recognize that homosexual temptation is but one of many temptations, as adultery, deceit, and greed could also lead the spirit to fall. If a spirit is lost to evil in the end, it matters not how that defeat occurred.

The Nature of Mental Maturity

Physical maturity is quickly followed by mental maturity. Unlike the body, which generally matures to a common standard, the mind matures to different levels depending on the strength, purity, and needs of each individual. Usually, the mature mind has at the very least the ability to communicate in words and written languages, though many are not taught to read. The adult mind has an awareness of self, the human community, and behaviors acceptable in the human community. When the mind is immature, it is driven by instinctive reactions to the world: anger and fear. Man's anger is based on a lack of understanding. It is very different from

the wrath of the Lord, which stems from complete understanding. As the mind is given more power and awareness, it learns to gain control over those reactions to varying degrees. However, the increased awareness leads the mind into deeper, more difficult to tame, reactions of hate and worry. While anger and fear trap the spirit in animalism, hate and worry reflect this world with all the evil working its way into the spirit. So while anger and fear can at times be conquered by mental strength, hate and worry in many cases must be confronted by a maturity of the spirit which eludes many people for their entire lives. The hate and worries caused by misunderstanding are easy to clear up if people are willing. However, sometimes the world provides such injustices and dangers that the mind seems to have every reason to hate and worry. In those cases especially, the spirit must receive and embrace the understanding and maturity that Christ offers. It is only through such understanding that all hate and worries in this world can be dissipated. We are taught to not even curse at Satan.

Many might argue that the human spirit can fight hate and worry by itself. To them I ask how can one who loves tolerate those who cause so much pain in this world, and how can even the most courageous person not think about the potential dangers unless he is foolish? Yet, with the truth that Christ our Lord brings, we can find forgiveness and even love for those in the armies of darkness. We can find trust in the Lord so that all worries disappear. Since all things occur with the Lord's permission, hating and worrying based on worldly observations are in defiance to the Lord's plan. The Lord, however, has every right to feel anger against evil and those who belong to evil, for it is because of them that His children must endure this world. Yet, this is sadly the way it must be for our spirits to triumph over evil. Some might question why the Lord does not separate His children from the lost souls. The parables revealed that until the Lord's children have matured, they must be left with the lost souls as the immature wheat cannot be separated from the chaff.

As man matures, he becomes a being of the mind rather than of the body. Even in sexual needs the physical hungers of youth give way to more elaborate fantasies that make sex more a pleasure of

the mind. Though many never realize it, deep fantasies are only satisfying in a loving, caring relation. When in a relationship that requires an intertwining of spirits, both sides can open up their inner desires in trust and play with such desires in understanding. For those who wish to explore fantasies under conditions other than that of complete trust and love, it is not only against Christian teachings but also an act of foolishness. Even if momentary pleasures can be achieved, the hurt and potential abuse to follow will be far from temporary.

Most Christians do not dare discuss the topic of sexual fantasies because it often involves what they consider as a sinful side of themselves that they must hide in shame. However, if such thoughts lurk within Christians, it is better to bring them out to dispel them if they indeed corrupt the spirit, or to play with them if they are harmless. To understand the nature of fantasy, we must first understand that it is a blend of our spiritual characteristics and the desire for physical pleasure. The fantasies that we must dispel are those that extend from our animalism and our desire to conquer the opposite sex, treating them as objects. These fantasies often involve multiple partners in a sequential or group manner where sex is just a physical act. Beyond these products of our immaturity, one's spiritual desire to reveal oneself to others may lead one to be stimulated by fantasies of exhibitionism. One's spiritual desire to see into others may lead one to be stimulated by fantasies of voyeurism. One's spiritual desire to serve may lead one to be stimulated by fantasies of bondage. One's spiritual desire to control may lead one to be stimulated by fantasies of domination. One's spiritual guilt in sin may lead one to be stimulated by fantasies of punishment. One's spiritual hunger for life may lead one to be stimulated by fantasies of adventure and danger. One's spiritual nature to rebel may lead one to be stimulated by the breaking of perceived social norms. One's spiritual nature to play may lead one to be stimulated by role playing. All these fantasies are reflections of ourselves, which we can express and even play with to the extent that our spouses, ourselves, and any other people are not harmed physically and spiritually. This means that the physical and spiritual privacy and dignity of our spouses must always be respected. This also means that, in our passions,

we must not act in such a reckless manner as to endanger ourselves and others. Thus in such play between two lovers, they must be careful about letting obsession overwhelm the mind and the growing relationship between spirits. We must always remember that fantasies are only shadows of our true selves and very vulnerable to the influences of evil.

Most of us struggle with our angers, fears, hates, and worries. We cope with social demands on our behavior and keep a private world of dreams and fantasies. However, as discussed, when it comes to intelligence and wisdom, we mature to vastly different levels. Some of us only have the capacity for working simple jobs and enjoying simple pleasures in living. They see art and hear music, and simply allow their spirits to react to beauty. In such simplicity, spiritual purity is preserved. In faith, it is easy for them to surrender themselves to the Lord. For others among us, the growth and trial of our spirits require the burden of deeper understanding. They know how all the machines work. Their minds are filled with scientific knowledge about the universe. When they observe art and hear music they study the strokes and analyze the acoustic quality of the notes. Though this powerful gift of the mind may be guided by the spirit towards great understanding of the Lord's plan, many are trapped by the mind in this reality so that their spiritual selves cannot be realized. Their insistence on physical evidence and faith in the power of human reasoning do not permit them to stretch their spirits beyond this world towards the Lord. It is to these people that the full meaning of Jesus' teachings has special importance. In Jesus' teachings lies a truth so complete and rational that it washes away all scientific concepts that deny the Lord.

The Nature of Spiritual Maturity

Though the mind may deny the spirit, the spirit nevertheless matures. When we were young, our spirits did not have a full awareness of the Lord even though we were taught the Bible. Yet, we were pure and the Lord carefully watched over us. In some cases the Lord may even have touched us with the Holy Spirit. At some point our spirits acquire the capacity to reach out to the Lord,

permitting the full power of the Holy Spirit to rush into us. At some point our spirits acquire the capacity to truly love and understand the greatness of the Lord's plan. Beyond that point, the decision to allow our spirits to burst into life to become children of the Lord lies with us. Though only a portion of humanity has been led by the Father to the Son, all adult spirits have the capacity to recognize their own existence and the Lord, for the Lord's ways are written into the hearts of all men. If such spirits ask for the Lord's love and understanding, they will, in the right time, be given to the Word. Based on the age when Levites could become priests, this point of spiritual adulthood might be close to the age of thirty. Our Lord Jesus was not baptized and did not begin His work until the age of thirty. In His case it was not thirty years of spiritual growth but a gradual connection of a spirit of Heaven to this world to be man.

The human condition that we just described is a fertile battlefield for evil to manifest itself and for Satan's army to attack. As with any fierce adversary, they have a set of strategies designed for the environment and the opposition they expect to encounter. If the victim is spiritually weak, the forces of Satan will grow the evil by leading the person towards physical matters. By focusing on physical needs, such as food, rest, and pleasures, Satan's whispers will try to push the person towards selfishness and greed, especially the one element that can acquire physical things, money. By focusing on physical dangers, Satan's whispers will try to push the person towards obsessive fears of death and discomfort that paralyze the spirit. By focusing on physical comforts, Satan's whispers will try to push the person towards apathy, complacency, and indulgence. For the extremely weak spirits that are sufficiently tainted by evil for Satan to gain a foothold, Satan might send a minion to possess and control it. Alternatively, strong spirits are often aware of themselves and possess vulnerabilities similar to Satan himself. By focusing on the spirit's awareness of self, Satan will try hard to fan the feeling of shame and insecurity. By focusing on the spirit's awareness of a fate beyond this world, Satan will try hard to create a false sense of salvation, useless confusion and worry, or a sense of complacency. The feeling that one can always repent and turn to the Lord at

some later date is the handy work of evil. When a spirit realizes that it has power, Satan will push that realization towards arrogance and independence. Satan knows this path very well. When a spirit realizes that it is immortal, Satan will try to encourage a sense of recklessness and detachment to this world. While we cannot be trapped by this world, Christians know that this world is important in the Lord's plan, because the fate of humanity hinges on the battle against evil in this world. Though Christians may care about different things, truer things, Christians must nevertheless care and take care of themselves in this world.

When a person's spirit is well tainted by evil, Satan begins his end game. First, he sows the seeds of chaos and confusion until the person can no longer tell right from wrong, good from evil. This confusion, which may initially start with rationalized actions or thoughts of evil, will eventually sink into despair and hopelessness. In this hopelessness all attempts to fight off the evil will eventually be lost. In the end, Satan the great trickster will appear in boldness to collect what belongs to him. He will give that person a twisted morality where God has failed and Jesus' teachings are lies. Yet, ironically, one still has to serve, love, and obey authority. Only, Satan is that authority. Hard to believe but, with the help of the Evil One, there is honor among criminals, friendship among killers, and a sense of loyalty even for monsters. Thus, even for those lost to evil, there are reflections of humanity. However, we must be careful not to assume that such humanity kept to suit Satan's needs is the same as what emerges through the Holy Spirit.

Even when a person's spirit is pure and filled with goodness, Satan does not relent. If the spirit has a high capacity to love, Satan will try to exploit its naivete to turn that love towards the worldly perspective to create obsession, domination, and physical yearning to give. If the spirit has a great need for love, Satan will try to turn that need into fears of rejection, physical yearning to receive, loss of confidence, and even hate. When a spirit wants to grow, Satan will try to cloud the mind about the truth of the Lord. In that cloud, the spirit may feel frustration and be guided down a

worldly path. Finally, even when the spirit seeks goodness, Satan can through trickery turn that hunger for goodness into self-righteousness with condemnation of others. Alternatively, even the recognition of evil can be twisted so that faith in goodness and the Lord is lost. We must stay mature in the understanding of the Lord's plan in order to see the deceptions of Satan. Thus, we must embrace the Word for understanding, the Holy Spirit for the strength to use the understanding, and our Father in Heaven for guiding our spirits to victory.

B. STUDYING THE CONFLICT SCENARIOS

While the strategies of Satan and his army are thorough and very effective, we must always remember that Satan has no power except what the Lord has permitted. The Lord permits the armies of darkness to attack so that we can fight. Without fighting, there can be no victory. In the end, Satan and all who follow evil are simply slaves to the Lord's plan. Unknowingly, they become instruments to expose evil even though it is evil that owns them. Evil, the true enemy, is more difficult to defeat than its armies because it is without consciousness and rational thought, without form and substance, ever permeating into our being. To flush out this elusive master that can claim the most powerful of the Lord's angels, the Lord has laden the worldly battlefields with dozens of types of situations for us to experience the hidden evil in various ways. In each situation, the armies of darkness are compelled to attack and rally around the evil in us. If we watch closely with our spirits, that evil which lurks deep within us will glow like a beacon. When humanity was young and simple in spirit, long before Satan and his minions were cast to earth, tempting situations alone often flushed out the evil for man to battle. As man's spirit grew stronger with each generation, the attack of Satan's army must be permitted to become progressively fierce and the situations of temptation more complex. Some of these situations or points of battle are discussed below.

SCENARIO 1- Opportunity to make easy money: Money emerged as a means of recording one's labors in order to exchange for the products of other people's labors in an increasingly impersonal society. At best, money weakens comradery between people working together and sharing the fruits of their labors by measuring the labor of each person separately. At its worst, money enslaves those who seek to exploit it. We all know people who are obsessed with making money and consumed by greed. Very few people want to be misers who abuse employees and are merciless to the poor, or corporate raiders who destroy jobs and lives. However, beyond the obvious enslavement, more and more of us are able to convince ourselves to make a deal with money. First, there are those of us who choose professions based on the money they generate and not on how such professions can serve the Lord and humanity. Then there are those of us who rationalize that it is all right to work longer hours for extra money, even though the hours could have been spent with our family and the Lord.

Now, with the accessibility of the stock market, large sectors of the world are be swirled in personal investments. Daily people seek to exploit money by buying things that others will pay more for. This form of competition is against the Christian ideal where we should exchange our labor fairly for the labor of others. Wealth accrued through investments is not the product of our labors, but our robbing from other people's labors. Ironically, people allow themselves to be robbed with the hope of robbing others. In the long run, our need to invest and grow our wealth hinders our ability to use our wealth towards the best interest of the Lord and others. We should note that financial investment is very different from actual ownership and management of businesses. In the latter case, the equivalent value of a company is only a measure of authority over workers and power to supply products. In such situations, the question is whether the power is abused. Even if we think nothing about money, such negligence could harm others. When we are paid more than a fair day's wages, we must ask whether we are unknowingly robbing others of their fair share. We may argue that we should be paid more because of the importance of our jobs. By that principle, the apostles

should have been paid the wealth of this world. Yet, they knew that they had no need or right to the wealth of this world.

Is the work of the president of a global corporation more important than the diligent efforts of a janitor by the standards of the Lord? Yet, at times the Lord will grant some of us great wealth as either a responsibility or a test. In either case we must spend the wealth with the guidance of the Lord to do the Lord's work. We are not rich unless we think of the wealth the Lord has granted us as our own and use it out of selflessness. It is clearly hard for a rich man to enter into Heaven. Some people are quick to remind us that we do need money to survive, and indeed they are right. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples that they would need to carry purses. It is the burden of man to toil in this world to live. If money is how this world chooses to measure our toils, we must learn to make and use money. However, as shown above, this battlefield against evil has led to many casualties, and most everyone of us has quite a few scars. Yet, this may be one of the most strengthening battles for those of us who refuse to surrender, because the fight against the corruption of money lasts a lifetime.

This battle has also evolved in complexity and intensity. In feudal days, one either had money or lived in subsistence. Today, nearly every poor person can be trapped by the obsession of becoming rich. Today, human society as a whole seems to be controlled by the principle of capitalism, where money is god and it dictates what is right or wrong. In such a world or on such a battlefield, the greatest challenge is to stay true to the Lord's teachings. The battle may be as follows. When the government wants to subsidize farmers to produce less to control prices, the farmer continues to produce all he can because he knows that, despite organizational and distributional problems, it will take all the farm capacity and more to make sure that no one in this world goes hungry. When a company offers a person a position of greater pay, he chooses to remain in a position where he can make a difference. When a product can be made safer at the sacrifice of profit, the manager chooses safety. Rather than marrying for money, a person chooses love. Ultimately, the one answer we must find is how much money

do we really need, not want. Only the Lord can help us with this answer, for the needs of each individual are unique.

SCENARIO 2 - Need to compromise one's sense of right and wrong: The teachings of the Holy Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit are clear if we only listen. However, the world presents us with so many situations where we feel we must choose the lesser of two evils. Life seems to lead us on a course where suddenly we have no choice but to make compromises to our sense of right. Once we cross that line where a little bit of wrong, a little bit of harm, and a little bit of evil is acceptable, then we are suddenly pulled into the battle where everything is but a shade of gray. On this battlefield, we must constantly fight the further penetration of evil and the deceptions of the armies of darkness. Else, every situation that we face from then on will cloud our spirits, and we will find ourselves asking whether slightly more compromising is acceptable.

Our step across the line into the grayness may often be subtle and occur without our realization. Once we realize, however, the decision to return rapidly to the side of righteousness must be made. This enticement by the gray may be a manager convincing himself that he must layoff a good worker to increase profits and his own bonus. An engineer might cross the line when he does not apply the best safety designs because of corporate cutbacks. A soldier might cross the line when he convinces himself that he must kill the innocent for his cause. A merchant might cross the line when he charges more than a fair price. A lawyer might cross the line when he places his faith in the system and not in the Lord, thus setting the guilty free. A worker might cross the line when he convinces himself that he is not responsible for building a product with poor materials or defective parts. A doctor might cross the line when he decides without the Lord's help whom to save first and whom he must let die. A police officer might cross the line when he abuses his powers by entrapping people to collect fines. A politician might cross the line when he lies to gain power, believing that his humanitarian use of such powers will justify how he got there. Even a Christian pastor could slip across this line when he softens the teachings of our

Lord to retain his congregation or when he selectively applies Old Testament laws, such as the tithe to support his church when he knows that Christians are not bound by laws.

The terrain of this battlefield goes on until all of us find ourselves vulnerable to compromises. Resistance to compromises begins with two steps: 1. Never feel that choosing the lesser of two evils is acceptable, and though we may do so out of weakness, we must recognize it as sin; 2. See that we have a choice not to sin and that which stops us is the sacrifice. We may lose our jobs, wealth, and even our lives, but we can choose not to sin.

In choosing not to sin, the decision to not hurt others in order to save ourselves is straightforward. However, whether we should hurt one person so that another could be saved is a decision of enormous complexity and situational uniqueness. Thus, such decisions must be made in consultation with the Lord. Under the Lord's guidance and with the understanding provided by the Holy Spirit there is no sin, for sin is of the spirit and the spirit is pure when in the arms of the Lord.

SCENARIO 3 - Ability to achieve personal gain through charisma or sheer physical attractiveness: Though we are beings of the spirit, this physical world judges one by the appearance. To those who are given an exceptional body, voice, and/or set of gestures by the Lord, a unique battle awaits them. They are given tremendous power in the physical world because the world adores what is beautiful in it. Such power lures out evil and draws the attention of the armies of darkness, especially the army of men enslaved to this world by evil. Evil will motivate these beautiful people to use their beauty and charisma to fulfill all forms of selfish desires. Charismatic men may deceive many women in lust. Beautiful women may capture men for their money. Employees may use appearance to overcome more qualified candidates. Some may sell themselves to corporations to market products they do not believe in. Others may use physical superiority to crush the self-esteem of victims who are not attractive. Even Christian leaders may use the art of persuasion as a substitute for the depth of their

faith and teachings. In the end, this power of the body can become so great as to capture the person himself in a cage of obsession and self-adoration. Many people today spend more time each day grooming themselves and selecting outfits than in prayer and service to the Lord. Many people today are so trapped by this world of the body that they cannot see their spirits and the Lord. Thus, the gates of the spirit are swung wide open for Satan's forces to march in.

SCENARIO 4 - Opportunity to gain through deception or

criminal activity: In the days of the Old Testament God established laws to help His people live together and shape their spirits towards righteousness. With Christ's teachings, Christians are freed from God's laws and God's judgment as long as they stay true to Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus taught us to obey the laws of man, not because they are right or just, but because we should have no desires in this physical world that would make us break social laws. By obeying the laws of society, which are small things, we in the end train ourselves to obey God. Obedience to secular laws means trying not to work outside their framework through deception. As Christians, there are laws of this world that we cannot embrace because they hinder our faith and love. However, we can nevertheless live within their framework by accepting without opposition the punishment that is prescribed. This too is a form of obedience. This does not necessarily mean that a Christian must turn himself in as a martyr. However, whether a Christian should flee from law enforcement is a matter of guidance from the Holy Spirit. Some may say that while we are the owners of our spirits, we must make choices by and for the spirit. However, the world is the owner of the body, and we may have to surrender to the world what belongs to it.

The reason why deception is a significant issue is that it is generally a sign of selfishness or lack of faith in the Lord. In those rare situations when we truly believe that we must deceive in order to protect others, we must still question whether we are taking too much power into our own hands and seek the guidance of the Lord. In the matter of crime and deception, most of us can easily fight

any urgings by evil to mug old ladies on the street or to rob a bank. Yet, as soon as the harm of such actions or their consequences seem less severe, we are often motivated by evil to entertain thoughts of selfish gain, with Satan convincing us to take action. We may ask ourselves what harm can there be if we cheat on our taxes, pirate copyrighted software, or lie to a date about our age or history. We may ask ourselves who would know if we embezzle just a little at work, cheat on an exam, blame someone else for our mistakes, or flee from the scene of an accident. Though most people yield to a few of these thoughts and perhaps even actions, we must take care that we do not rationalize it away as anything other than sin. If we can recognize these sins, the battle turns to our favor, for the evil is exposed. Since this battlefield is situational, it is easy to maneuver and fight it. If we can resist the thoughts of crime and deception for a while, the opportunity to commit them will be gone. Then, we are left with the exposed evil and what it has made us think about. At that point the choice to take the offensive against evil is ours.

SCENARIO 5 - Power as leader or ruler over others: The Lord places people in positions of authority to help them learn to love as the Lord loves us. However, this authority is also a tremendous opportunity for evil to attack. If our love and understanding weakens even a little, the evil in us might quickly grow and gather strength from the strength of our power. As a result, so few of us can truly love as the Lord loves, and so many of us abuse our authority over others either intentionally or unintentionally. It was easy for the Christian slave masters of old to beat their human properties. It is easy for bosses today to manage their employees simply as resources to be exploited. It is easy for a military commander, hardened by wars, to send his troops recklessly to die in battle. Even when there is love in our hearts, the power of authority can be abused out of ignorance. How many parents have denied children their own lives by making critical decisions for them, such as what to study in school and whom to marry? So many people today live with the torment of wondering what they could have been had they been free to live. How many heads of state have sent their people into

torment out of a poor understanding of national needs? Human history is littered with countless wars launched by kings filled with national pride and backed by loyal subjects. In the end, all these leaders can say is that they did everything for the good of the people.

While love is indeed the key to the Christian spirit and much can be forgiven in the name of love, Christianity is also about a maturity of the spirit, for even our love can be manipulated by evil. When evil corrupts the purity of our love by tying it to the world instead to the Lord, the armies of darkness can quickly push us to worldly actions in the name of love to do harm. Any action that is against the teachings of Jesus and the will of God cannot be considered to be from goodness even if there is love involved. Love is the key to our capacity for goodness. However, if we continuously misuse that key and allow evil to grow, our spirits will be defeated. Thus, the Lord has designed this battlefield to first teach our spirits to love and then teach our spirits to focus that love correctly, with the understanding that Christ and the Holy Spirit offer to grow the goodness in us.

SCENARIO 6 - Opportunity to escape through drugs: Since ancient times the Lord has granted man substances that would alter his perception of this world. What started as wine evolved into many forms of hard liquor that can quickly intoxicate. Then came tobacco, opium, marijuana, and cocaine later in history. Through advancement in technology, man was eventually able to produce much stronger mind-altering drugs, such as heroine, crack, and LSD by using organic and inorganic compounds. Thus, the ways and opportunities for man to instantly block or alter his spirit's exposure to this world has been growing especially towards the end of the twentieth century. Christian teachings do not prohibit us from using any of the substances described, even though we must honor secular laws: Christians are taught not to act in a way that disrupts our spiritual tie to this world, for this world is the war against evil that the Lord wants us to fight. In the case of alcohol, we must not partake in drunkenness. With other substances, the impact of alcohol is a good relative measure for the level of harm

we must avoid. Substances that instantly bring us to a state of intoxication, delusion, euphoria, hallucinations, and sedition must be carefully avoided. Substances that cause immediate or accumulated damage, which will shorten our lives, should be avoided. It is also wise to avoid substances that we are not sure we can resist, because addiction is a way for the world to trap us. This is especially truly for substances that build a metabolic dependence.

As with all things in this world, the option to avoid the battle with evil by not using drugs is in itself a battle designed by the Lord. This battle is especially difficult for the young and the weak who are overwhelmed by the war. Yet, we must realize that escape through drugs may take us temporarily out of this reality, but it does not take us away from the evil which exists in us. In the world of dreams, hallucinations, and dizziness, the evil can flourish and welcome in its armies. While our spirits and minds are trapped in this chemically-induced world, our bodies are still left in the physical world waiting for the vultures. For those who can actually fight their way out of drug abuse and evil's trap, they typically awaken with their bodies broken and their lives destroyed. Yet, they will have fought one great fight to be stronger instruments of the Lord. Nevertheless, it is far better to win the first battle by resisting the temptation of drugs, thus becoming a strong instrument of the Lord without hard testing.

SCENARIO 7 - Desire to take one's own life: The war against evil is hard, and sometimes it may appear that we are surrounded by evil and its armies. While some choose to hide and bury their heads in the sand, others are tempted to simply end their part in the war altogether by leaving the battlefield. While our Father in Heaven would like to receive all of us as soon as possible and in every way possible, this way of ending our personal war presents many difficulties. First, we may leave the world, but we will take the evil with us. If that evil is too great, our spirits cannot be accepted by the Lord. The fact that one can break away from the Lord's plan is already a strong indicator that the tainting by evil may be too high. Beyond just the evil, Satan's forces may have established a hold on the spirit, dragging that spirit to their realm in

the World of the Dead to await the coming of Hell. Terrible as this fate is, the choice to stay in this war until our battles are complete must be ours. Thus, the ability to take one's own life is available to almost everyone all the time. Our bodies are fragile, and the world is hard. Often, a simple gesture, such as stepping into traffic, can break one's body. Thus, in these modern times, staying in the fight must almost be a continuous decision.

While only a small percentage of humanity actively take their own lives, many commit passive suicide by not caring about life and placing themselves in situations of extreme, senseless risk. The terms "extreme" and "senseless" are important, for life is full of risks that we cannot worry about. Yet, there are those who charge into needless deaths in war, and we call them heroes. There are those who seek all forms of dangerous stunts, and we call them daredevils. Everyday we see people driving drunk or well above the speed limit, and we ignore them as crazy or stupid.

SCENARIO 8 - Pursuing a life of leisure and indulgence:

This battlefield created by the Lord is also a reflection of His greatness. As such, there is much beauty, enjoyment, and pleasure in this world to provide us a taste of Heaven. There are also many ways for us to rest and take in the bounties of this world. However, we should only rest and enjoy life to the extent that the weakness of our minds and bodies require it, for there is a war still to be won, and the resources of this world are better spent helping others. The Lord permits children to play and rest all the time. However, we are no longer children. The Lord may even permit those who are spiritually lost to indulge in the luxuries and pleasures of life, for when they join Christ's army, they will be saddened by all the time and energy they have wasted. For those of us who are already in Christ's army, we are taught that there is no place to rest. Though we may sleep, eat, and relax our bodies, our spirits must always be alert and on the defensive. This is because Satan's army is relentless in hunting us, and there is indeed no place in this world where we can let our guard down. Nevertheless, a Christian can rest and unload the burdens of his spirit. In prayer, the Lord will carry his burdens, shield him from the armies of darkness, and rejuvenate his spirit with the power

of the Holy Spirit. Christians who rest their spirits by worldly means may quickly find that they are surrounded by the armies of darkness and cut off from the Lord.

SCENARIO 9 - Exposure to and the ability to understand a wide body of human knowledge: Intellect is a gift of power by the Lord to operate in this world. It binds the spirit tighter to the physical by giving the mind great ability to manipulate sensory information from the physical world. Until a person has received the Holy Spirit, intellectual pursuit is the primary way for one to learn about the world. Even with the help of the Holy Spirit, much of the way we learn, including the study of scriptures, requires intellect. Thus, the degree of intellect is often matched by the Lord to the spiritual strength of the individual. Strong spirits require the application of intellect to grow, and weaker spirits can be kept pure by denying them excessive exposure to this world. Unfortunately, with the influence of evil, this power of intellect has in most cases become a trap for the spirit. As a result, the Kingdom of Heaven is growing more by the dedication and love of the weak instead of the intelligence of the strong.

Yet, the strong must be given the opportunity to grow. Thus, beyond human intellect, the body of human knowledge about this world, which reflects the glory of the Lord, has increased exponentially as the Kingdom of the Lord approaches. Trapped by evil and counseled by Satan, many scientists, philosophers, and intellectuals who can grasp this body of human knowledge have used it to argue against the existence of God even though their own facts often contradicted their arguments. Many are trapped in an awareness paradox, where, without the Holy Spirit, their spirits cannot overcome the intellectual trap of relying only on the physical senses. However, without an awareness of the spirit they cannot find the faith to receive the Holy Spirit. Perhaps one of the few ways to break this paradox is through the help of Christian scholars in challenging the arguments of atheistic intellectuals on their own terms and convincing them to let their spirits awaken a little bit. In opposition to the armies of darkness, the army of Christ could penetrate

the spirit, if it could awaken a little, to deliver truth and the power of the Holy Spirit a drop at a time.

SCENARIO 10 - Pressure from peers and loyalty to others:

One of the key characteristics of the Kingdom of God is love. This love is inborn in our spirits and grows in this world with the guidance of the Lord. A worldly manifestation of this love in the mind is the inherent desire for friendship and comradeship. Yet, the Lord placed our spirits in physical bodies so that they cannot unite fully, and the Lord divided humanity into different races so that nations cannot unite fully. This division is not to separate spirits but the evil in everyone's spirit. Even so, spirits more dominated by evil can exert a great deal of influence on spirits with a high desire to be loved or have a high sense of loyalty due to love. Friends might convince a person that it is all right to sin just a little because they all do it. Friends might demand a sinful act as the price for friendship. We must stay mature and see the evil at work, even among our close friends. After resisting their influence, we must continue to help them fight evil within.

SCENARIO 11- Exposure to false ideologies and religious teachings: It took centuries for humanity to grow to a point where all nations could receive the truth of the Word. When the Word enters into new regions, it must defeat the results of what happened when people were left to find the Lord on their own for thousands of years. Depending on the maturity of the people who have not received Christ, their faith and understanding of the world could exhibit various levels and forms of confusion. Yet, for their spiritual status, all their false beliefs appear rational and true. The initial efforts of Christianity in a new culture are to collect those spirits which have matured beyond their false beliefs and those spirits which are in desperate need of the complete truth. Thus, false ideologies and religions persist for quite some time because many spirits are too stubborn to change. What is different, however, is that, once exposed to Christianity, these people of other religions become terrible threats, influenced by evil to form new armies. This is because the power of Christianity lies in the spreading of truth,

the opening of self in trust, and the willingness to share spiritual experiences with non-believers. As a doctor is vulnerable to the diseases of his patients, so are Christians to the false religions and ideologies of those they are trying to save.

False religious beliefs are particularly influential on the Christian youth maturing into a relationship with the Lord, and the weak Christian with lingering doubts. They seek to corrupt the purity of Christian understanding, draw Christians away into their ranks, and divide Christians regarding how to respond. Today, as Christianity has reached the far corners of the world, we Christians are exposed to all forms of false ideologies and religions. If we have not received the truth of God fully, some of these false ideas may seem reasonable. So many Christians have already been corrupted, and now they are manipulated by the armies of darkness to corrupt us. Many Christians may tell us that we must respect other people's beliefs, for no one knows who is right. Many Christians may tell us that the Holy Bible should be interpreted freely with consideration of secular history and wisdom from other cultures. However, by far the greatest threat in this battle is the product of those minions of Satan who have penetrated the Christian realm. Unlike the weapons of opportunity collected by evil from human ignorance and spiritual immaturity, the weapons of these false prophets are specifically crafted using Christian teachings to defeat Christian teachings. These false prophets will take selective pieces of Biblical prophecies and misinterpret them to lead people away from the Lord. They will tell false Christian tales to capture those who have never fully studied the Bible. They will offer perceived miracles to enslave the spirits in need. On this battlefield, Satan has carried his forces deep into the Christian realm. If we weaken slightly and overlook the teachings of others, even well-known proclaimed Christian leaders, we will suddenly find ourselves away from the Holy Spirit, given to Satan, and most definitely captured by evil. No matter how unfair the odds are against us, if we lose this battle in our lifetime, we too will share the same fate of the false prophets.

SCENARIO 12 - Rejection and persecution by others: Some of us may be tempted by the worldly pleasures, but far more of us are pushed towards the Lord through the rejection and persecution of this world. In pain and sorrow, many spirits have found comfort in the arms of Jesus. Though this situation does not seem like a battlefield, wherever there is evil, the armies of darkness will gather for a fight. Thus, while the Lord constantly reaches out to all who find themselves alone and perhaps hated, they may not always be able to hear or accept the Lord. The evil in them may fuel hate in isolation. In that isolation of hate, Satan will enter as a best friend to convince the hurt to strike back. A child who is ugly might be convinced to spend his life pursuing superficial beauty, and a child who is poor might spend his life seeking wealth. If they succeed in surpassing their oppressors, they might become worse oppressors of others. If they cannot win acceptance, they might simply start hating all who have what they do not have. On some occasions, Satan can be so clever that he will convince a person that he is being rejected when all bear him good will. A real victory for Satan's forces is when they can convince someone that the Lord has rejected him. For the weak in faith, this attack is straightforward and often effective. Satan whispers, "Why do other people have so much while your life is in pain?" Satan concludes for the person that there is either no God or that God is unfair. If our faith is not strong enough to show that the Lord's plan is perfect and that the Lord provides for each person his maximum chance for salvation, then all could be lost.

SCENARIO 13 - Cause to seek vengeance or punishment on others: God is goodness, and God demands justice. In His infinite understanding, He knows whom to punish and how to punish. We who are made in God's image also yearn for justice. We want wrongs corrected and the guilty punished. When we are personally wronged, this feeling blinds us with hate to create a demand for vengeance. Yet, through the understanding that the Lord has given us, we know that we can never understand enough to pursue justice or seek vengeance. To condemn a person we must know everything in that person's life and everything around that person's life.

A person who has done the most hideous of things might still find salvation in the Lord, and a person who appears to be a saint might be lost because of the inner path of his spirit. Thus, this tricky battlefield is one of our spiritual maturity versus evil trying to justify its existence as anger and hate of evil events. In a way, this is like paying the criminal to fight the crime that he has created. When we are wronged, we must always remember that this world crucified our Lord Jesus and yet our Lord works ever harder to save it. We should expect no fairness from the world as we offer it love in return. Though Christians should safeguard themselves from criminals, punishing criminals is best left to the secular world.

SCENARIO 14 - Real or perceived personal superiority and/or great successes: God created our bodies, minds, status, and experiences to shape our spirits and to use us to shape the spirits of others. Thus, true superiority lies in the spirit and not in the physical world trappings of our being. True superiority of the spirit lies in our capacity to love and to serve. Despite this truth, evil still applies a tremendous force on people to act selfishly upon seeing themselves as superior or successful. Being an individual rather than a member of God's family, a person cannot resist Satan whispering thoughts about how others are insignificant and should be looked down upon. "Why should you, a millionaire, care about a janitor in one of your companies?" Satan might question. "Why should you, a great scientist, care about some high school dropout?" Satan might argue. If we are not fully a part of God's family, then we are on this battlefield. Though the goodness in us will nevertheless try to stir our love, the arguments of Satan will be indeed hard to fight. Perhaps the greatest struggle on this battlefield is not our sense of superiority that distances us from other people, but our need to prove our superiority that causes us to hurt other people as we rise to the top. Though Satan can fan our arrogance, it is perhaps far easier to fuel our insecurities, for they reflect the truth that we are not superior. Instead of falling deeper into this trap of individualism, we can turn our spirits to our brothers and sisters in love, recognize that worldly superiority does not matter, see that the only competition

is against Satan for people's souls, and return to the arms of the Lord Who is so high above us that the differences between our spirits are hardly noticeable.

SCENARIO 15 - Real or perceived personal inferiority and/or great failures: Just as superiority and success can separate us from God's family, inferiority and failures can also make us feel alone even when we are not rejected by others. If our inferiority and failures are of this world, we must fight the confusion created by evil to see the Lord's plan for us to grow by these inadequacies. A poor man may achieve a special closeness with the Lord that a rich man never will. A dumb man may find a purity of spirit that a bright man has long lost. Though this battlefield is not as difficult as that of pride and arrogance, far more people are vulnerable because their inferiority complex is supported by their true spiritual state. The fact that our spirits are weak and immature simply reenforces the feelings of worldly inadequacies whether we understand our spirits or not. If we let evil cloud our spirits, we may not see that our inadequacies in this world actually help us to overcome the immaturity of the spirit. Though our spirits are weak now, some day the Lord will fill them with His strength. Many of us are perpetually trapped in this battlefield where Satan plays with our insecurities and convinces us to commit foolish deeds that will eventually trap us in guilt.

SCENARIO 16 - Tragic loss of a loved one or a very personal possession: As mature Christians we know that true sadness comes from spiritual separation from loved ones and the physical pains felt by loved ones in their departure. This sadness is only momentary unless we believe that there is a possibility that our loved ones are not acceptable by the Lord. Yet, despite this knowledge we are still beings of the body. In building a life for the body we unavoidably create physical and emotional dependence on people and special objects. Objects that are associated with personal growth, such as a photo album, a wedding ring, diplomas, and awards establish the strongest ties to us because they carry a precious memory of the past. On this battlefield we should love and even have feelings towards

select things that remind us of a better part of ourselves. However, the fight is against our immaturity, which prevents us from letting go of the less important to focus on the truly important. Evil motivates us to stay immature, and in that immaturity it will try to trap us in overwhelming grief. This grief can be manipulated to feed on itself. Our poor understanding of the Lord's plan is the primary reason for self-destructive grief. For example, a temporary spiritual separation of a few decades may be treated as an eternal loss, or the loss of a personal possession may be treated as the loss of a friend. Trapped by grief, we may lose our faith in the Lord, which further distances us from the truth. In the end, our ties to the Lord could be severed altogether if the grief is unbearable. Then, Satan's forces will sweep in to turn the grief into bitterness and hate. Many will seek to create their own reasons why they had to be consumed by grief. Almost certainly they will try to focus blame on the world or even on the Lord. This battlefield is especially difficult if the loss is sudden and unexpected. In such cases, people must grieve and then fight their way back to the Lord's plan for their life to continue.

SCENARIO 17 -A great and overwhelming love: As the loss of worldly love can lead to a battlefield of grief, the unattainability of worldly love can lead us into a battlefield of our obsession. The truth is that all the love in this world is a prelude to the Kingdom of God. When His kingdom comes, our love and ability to love the Lord and all the members of Heaven will be increased a thousand folds. Then, all the incomplete loves of this world will be a faded memory, and all the flourishing loves in this world will be transformed. Unlike this world where everything must be limited by the capacity of the body, in the Kingdom of God no one will deny any other member spiritual love. Thus, marriages will be obsolete, and physical expressions of love will be replaced by something far better. Material objects will be simply play things in the Kingdom of God for His children to create and manipulate at will. Despite this truth, living for the future is difficult when confronted with the rejection of love in the physical world.

Our desire to love is the essence of our spirits and God's goodness in us. However, with a little confusion created by evil, we can quickly lose sight of the true love we are trying to obtain. Suddenly we then find ourselves in a battle with obsession, dragging love to a physical level and binding it to this world. With it our spirits are bound, and we can offer little resistance to the armies of darkness. When a man pursues a woman in obsession, he might forget about the Lord, abandon his responsibilities, lose his perception of right and wrong, and become careless about the wellbeing of others. As he fails to gain her affection, his love will be driven less and less by spiritual desires. Eventually, all that is left of love is the physical; he hungers to own and control her. What he does not realize is that love in this world is deceptive especially when evil is at work. Two people might feel a spiritual tie that cannot be completed until both spirits have matured after this world. Two people might touch each other spiritually, but they are not really compatible for a deep and lasting relation. Two people might even build a spiritual tie that is destined for separation as one or both spirits are rejected by the Lord. Though unpleasant, we must confront the truth with the help of the Holy Spirit to win this battle.

SCENARIO 18 - Experiencing betrayal: The greatest of all sins is perhaps betrayal, the mark of Satan. The most damaging act of betrayal is against love: the love of parents, children, siblings, friends, mentors, proteges, husbands, and wives. When we are the targets of such an overwhelming force of evil, ironically that force may not only hurt our spirits but also draw our spirits into the vortex of evil. Instead of dedicating ourselves to never betray as we have been betrayed, we might actually start believing that betrayal is acceptable for how can anything that powerful be wrong. Instead of running away from the evil and to the love of the Lord who never betrays, we might hover around the evil and be slowly drawn in as our hatred grows. The forces of evil when concentrated in this manner are almost impossible to fight without the Lord's help. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, the best that one can do is to withdraw rapidly into one's own spiritual shell to avoid any spiritual contact with the outside world. If the shell cracks, evil will

overwhelm the spirit. Our world is filled with these people who have been attacked by betrayal and become walking robots who can no longer love or care. This outcome must be resisted, and love must be preserved.

SCENARIO 19 - Experiencing illness, disability, hardship, or torment: Blessed are those who are not courted by this world, for the Lord is eager to receive them at the right time. Their journey to the Lord is a short one if they are willing to embark when the Lord calls. However, that short journey is still a battlefield against evil. Though at a disadvantage, evil will still try to grow in spirits who are not attached to this world. People who are very ill, disabled, impoverished, or hurt have very little power in this world. Thus, evil cannot feed on that power to grow. Instead, evil must grow almost solely within the confines of that spirit. In some cases, the spirit is so contained by the depletion of its senses and mobility that even the armies of darkness cannot enter in force. For example, a blind man or a man in chains cannot be put into many of the battlefields discussed. On the other hand, in his solitude the Lord may call out to that blind man loudly. In torment, the goodness in one's spirit pushes him to call out to the Lord.

Evil indeed has a very hard time growing in this battlefield. However, if Satan can gain a foothold, he will try to build a private reality for that spirit in lieu of this world. In that reality, everything will be twisted in favor of evil and the minions of Satan will play the roles that Christians in this world should play. Thus, when the journey has gone astray, we on the outside might see those trapped in prisons or confined in beds slowly sinking into insanity. For some who are not totally separated from the world, for instance the poor in slums, Satan weaves his reality with actual perceptions of the world so that the results are at times subtle. Yet, if we are in such a situation or observing from the outside, we may notice a sense of madness that spreads. People may fight for no reason at all. People may destroy things senselessly. People may take pleasure in pain and suffering. Suddenly, before anybody realizes, the battle could turn in evil's favor.

SCENARIO 20 - Trapped by obligations, duties, and honor:

The Lord places us in situations of responsibility to train the dedication of our spirits. If we are successful in small things, we might be ready for big things, namely serving the Lord. However, we must be mature enough to see what are the small things. The sure way to separate the big things from the small things is to ask whether human spiritual well-being is affected. A parent's obligation to raise children to be acceptable by the Lord is a big thing. An employee's duty to work towards the profit of the company is a small thing. A Christian's duty to deliver the good news of Christ is a big thing. Giving exact tithes for churches to build larger cathedrals is a small thing. Defending the truth of the Lord is a big thing. Defending one's own honor is small thing. True honor lies in a position established through the Lord's teachings, and that position cannot be offended or taken away by any other person. False honor is based on pride and self-righteousness. Defending false honor is foolish and meaningless. Since we generally start training our spirits with small things, the evil in us will try to make us see the small things as all important. Since growth and maturation are difficult, many Christians are trapped by small things and eventually led astray. Many Christians have even died for small things, such as liberty, the right to pursue happiness, and national pride. True liberty in the spirit cannot be lost through worldly persecution, and the false liberty of the body may not be worth sacrificing years of spiritual growth for. To die after being exploited by the armies of darkness may be the saddest outcome of our capacity to serve and fight for our cause.

SCENARIO 21- Trapped by apathy: Our ability to battle against evil and its armies in the other scenarios is achieved through spiritual maturity in the Word. Success in those scenarios, by the grace of God, brings us towards greater spiritual purity. However, getting to the battlefields could be a battle in itself if apathy has seized us. In this battle against apathy that has gripped so many, the number one enemy is not evil, but ourselves. Though evil is always at work, spirits remaining in weakness do not need evil's coercion to not care about anything. Thus, apathy makes a spirit

drop out of life altogether. Even Satan must be frustrated over an apathetic person, for he is of service to no one, not even the dark forces. We are such enemies to ourselves that Jesus proclaimed that being spiritually lukewarm is actually far worse than being lost but passionate.

As true Christians, we have already crossed from spiritual death to life. In doing so, we have shown that we do care and want to oppose the forces of evil. However, we are still vulnerable to the state of apathy, for our spiritual strength is limited. Sometimes, we exhaust ourselves spiritually and never want to care again. Other times we simply feel too weak to undertake the path that the Lord has set for us. We must fight against these effects of apathy by focusing our strength towards action no matter how weak we feel. The first step out of apathy is the hardest. As we exercise our spiritual strength to serve God, the strength will increase and the hold of apathy will dissipate. Unfortunately, as we succeed in our battle against evil, apathy will become a weapon for the dark forces to halt our advance. Satan's whispers will try to convince us that we have done enough or that we should take a long rest. Ultimately, we may have to battle the weaker parts of ourselves as well as the trickery of darkness to stay true to love and the work that love demands.

SCENARIO 22 - Trapped by guilt: When all the battles have been won and we have turned from the world to the Lord, evil still has one last tug at our spirits that draws upon the very goodness in us. Evil, though distant to us, may still manage to bring up very true memories of the times that we have faltered in the fight. If we are still immature, we may be reminded of all the physical harm that we have done. If we are mature, we may be reminded of the negative impact of our past actions on the spirits of others. By making us feel guilty, evil has laid the foundation for Satan to convince us that we are not worthy to be with the Lord. The effectiveness of this attack lies in the fact that it is true. We are indeed not worthy to be with the Lord. However, what the forces of evil want to prevent us from seeing is that worthiness is of no relevance. We establish criteria for worthiness when we

think of ourselves as individuals trying to meet the Lord's standards. To win the fight against evil is to be a part of the Lord's plan and the Lord's will. The whole world, even the evil, is in the Lord's plan. However, by embracing the Lord's will we are already accepted by the Lord. Though we can never achieve the Lord's goodness, we can achieve the Lord's expectation for us. If we can achieve this, why do we ever want to separate ourselves and fight for worthiness?

When we have become servants of the Lord, why should we feel guilty about our past as slaves of the Lord? If we have harmed others, guilt will not help them but our new found love most certainly will. Would we dare wish the past to never have happened? It is as if wishing the Lord's will be not fulfilled. The Lord's plan is perfect, and even expelling our bad deeds would go against it. The only sadness is that at one time we played a role in a perfect plan that we are not proud of. What is important, however, are the roles that we will play in the future. Not all of us can be captured by guilt. However, all of us may be vulnerable to regrets. Thus, sometimes before a Christian realizes, he might find himself wishing things had happened differently because evil has separated his spiritual trust in the Lord's plan. The armies of darkness will surely try to fan this ember of regret into raging depression with ideas of how much better things could have been. Following this path of dangerous and wrongful speculation about the course of our spirits, even the strongest among us may find ourselves lost, becoming easy prey for the forces of evil.

C. FORMULATING THE BATTLE PLANS

Up to this point, we have devoted the bulk of our attention to the understanding of the enemy and the battlefields which the Lord have prepared for us to engage the enemy. The reason for this level of emphasis is that our enemy "evil" and the forces that are ruled by it are masters of surprise and deception. As Christians, we are given a weapon of immeasurable power, the truth of the Word, and the perfect guidance through the Holy Spirit to use the weapon. This

weapon is both defensive and offensive. Defensively, it empowers our spirits with understanding which grows our strength, purity, and maturity to resist the effects of evil and the attacks of the armies of darkness. Offensively, it disintegrates evil with the light of the Lord if we aim it correctly. Thus, Satan's primary objective is to defeat us before we can find and eradicate the evil in and around us. Our opposing objective must be to find the evil quickly and engage it on our own terms. To accomplish this we must seek the Lord's help in understanding the strategies of Satan's forces and every detail of our spiritual terrain. We must never doubt that all battlefields belong to the Lord. If we are with the Lord, victory will be ours. Many have said that the heart of a victorious warrior must have courage, the ability to face the dangers and the risks of defeat. We will argue that the heart of a Christian warrior must be faith. This is not simply believing that there is a God. True faith is that, given our understanding of the powers of evil, we are still certain that good, representative of the Lord, shall triumph over evil and that order shall prevail over chaos.

We are indeed in a war that has stretched from Heaven to the earth. In this war the armies of darkness, especially Satan's forces, have employed the principles of war with greater mastery. Satan, the slave of chaos, actually attacks goodness and order in an organized way. Satan accepts none but himself as the center of command. Satan always focuses on the offensive and rallies his followers to attack en masse. Satan is also a master of maneuver and a true believer in the optimal expenditure of force. Satan knows that his power is limited and nothing in the face of God. Thus, Satan is patient and diligent in nurturing the power of evil that he believes is stronger than God. When Satan attacks, he stands on the spiritual terrain already claimed by evil and spreads his forces out until the spirit belongs to him. Satan does not waste his blows.

Despite Satan's cleverness and skill in the art of war, he is nevertheless transparent and doomed to defeat. If we calm our spirits when the world tries to consume us, we can identify the whispers of Satan and our own thoughts corrupted by evil. Once Satan's forces have been identified, our strategy is simple. Satan, who knows evil so well, will draw out any evil in us. However, the great power

of evil is nothing if it is divided and trapped in physical bodies. In resisting the advances of the armies of darkness with the power of the Holy Spirit, we are actually wiping out the evil that is slowly surfacing. Sometimes the evil surfaces faster than we can fight because we have not learned to wield the Lord's weapon in pure faith. In those cases we have a more challenging fight in cornering Satan's army, which has joined forces with the evil in us, and presenting the evil to the light of the Lord. Even in this state of dark alliance in our spirits, we must remember that the true enemy is always evil and that Satan's forces are but a distraction which we can easily resist with the Holy Spirit.

Long before the fall of Satan and his angels from Heaven, evil was already dwelling in the spirit of man. The Lord in those days still created many temptation-filled battlefields to flush out and fight evil. The Lord even permitted evil spirits to attack men. Satan actually fell at the time when his corrupted nature was needed the most, for as the spirit of man matured, the evil in man increased in strength, complexity, and concealment. Satan, as it turned out, was just the right catalyst to flush out evil in mature and complex spirits. No matter how far Satan gets in his efforts, as long as we can remember that he is no more than a slave of the Lord, then we shall not become victims to his trickery. Instead, as servants of the Lord we will have mastery over him, for as the discussion proved, we know Satan better than he knows himself. No matter how much force he has mustered, it is nothing compared to the power of the Holy Spirit which fills our spirits. Even when Satan, or another one of his fallen archangels, directly leads an assault against us, with one faithful prayer for help, God will directly intervene to drive them away. Let Satan's forces flee as they may. Our role is only to help others oppose their trickery. When God is through with these sad victims and servants of evil, they will be thrown into the pit of eternal fire.

The evil within us, which the armies of darkness have unwittingly drawn into the open, on the other hand, must be destroyed. Evil is destroyed whenever we, Christians or non-Christians, cast it out and choose to embrace good. However, far greater evil is destroyed when we receive the Word and suddenly understand what

evil is and how it works. Ultimately, the evil entrenched in the deepest part of our spirits is destroyed if we choose to battle it on the fields that the Lord has designed uniquely for each one of us. Victory is ours if we can resist the evil, identify the evil, and present it to the Lord in prayer. Sometimes the evil is so deep that we will have to open our spirits up completely to the Lord without shame or fear. After all the battles are done and our lives as warriors come to an end, we will know that we have met the Lord's expectation for us in the war if our bonds with the Lord have continuously grown and the evil in us has continuously diminished. Naturally, we cannot completely wipe away all the evil in these battles. What we can do is resist and reduce it to the point where our Lord can pull us into His Spirit, and the light of His Spirit will wash the evil completely out of us. On these worldly battlefields, there are those of us who are stronger warriors than others. In the army of Christ on earth and in Heaven, there are captains, lieutenants, sergeants, and privates. All of us combine to form one whole army with Christ as our general. Does it matter who is the captain and who is the private when we are one and the ultimate coming of the Kingdom of God is all our victory? Any victory over evil for any single spirit is a triumph for all the members of Heaven.

We complete this discussion on the ways to wage this campaign to save our Christian spirits and the spirits of other Christians with a few words of warning. Even knowing that we have to fight evil and Satan, even having the power of the Lord surging from the Holy Spirit through us, and even having the teachings of Jesus to guide us, Christians can and often have lost the fight. Thus, many who consider themselves Christians will eventually have to be given to evil and be cast away with Satan's army. Though there are many reasons why Christians lose the fight even though victory should be theirs, three roads to defeat seem to stand out. The first road to defeat is the way of complacency. All Christians participate in the fight, but far too many are quick to proclaim that they have done their share. They go to church. They pray everyday. They give to the poor. Yet, for the rest of their lives, they are defenseless targets for the armies of darkness. In the end, they may face defeat because they have forgotten that, in a war, one cannot stop fighting until one is off

the battlefield or that the battle is over. At one time or another most Christians have journeyed down this road. Those who have fought their way back to Christ's army will surely say that it is far easier to simply remain diligent in the fight. Be strong in spirit and fight the good fight.

The second road to defeat is the way of self-rationalization. Until the coming of the Kingdom of God, we Christians, though linked by the Holy Spirit, must still be individuals, not yet fully one as God and Jesus are one. As individuals we often see things from our limited perspective with our interpretations. This is despite the fact that the Holy Spirit allows us to see with a God-given understanding. From our perspective, we can suddenly forget the completeness of God's truth and start creating our own standards and justifications. Clear sins as taught to us by the Bible can be quickly brushed aside because there is a good reason why we had to do it. In the battle against evil, Christians may believe that they, by their own powers, can decide on the right things to do. This argument must be once and for all put to rest. We Christians are in no way wise enough to act alone against evil, even in the most certain of cases. How many Christians would kill a criminal to save their child's life? Yet, how can a Christian know whether it is truly acceptable to kill without guidance from the Lord? If God killed to save the physical life of His Child, half the Jewish nation would have been instantly wiped away two thousand years ago. Do we know the future role of a criminal in the Lord's plan? Maybe the criminal who we wanted to kill will become a Christian and save hundreds of others in prison. Maybe our child, though hard to accept, will no longer be acceptable by the Lord if he were to continue on with his life. Only through the Lord can we be sure that our actions are acceptable, and can we receive forgiveness for actions that we are compelled to take. Be pure in spirit and stay close to the Lord.

The third road to defeat is the path of immaturity. Christians must face the fact that ignorance is no excuse for not acting in accordance with the Lord's will and for being lured away by evil. Many Christians hover in immaturity and with each day slip further away from the true battle. The sad fact about this war is that,

though God controls or permits all things in this world, evil is indeed the true enemy of God. If evil claims a spirit, it matters not how that spirit was lost. It may be unfair and sad, but it is war. How sad it is when a group of innocent but immature Christians end up being led by false prophets. How frustrating it is when a group of devoted but immature Christians would not break away from the ritualism that trapped so many Jews. If we look deeper, we will see that the Lord has been calling out to these immature Christians to fight well and fight correctly. Yet, many simply cannot and will not hear. Be mature and truly serve the Lord.

In conclusion, we must constantly remind ourselves that a Christian is not defeated or victorious until the Lord has retrieved him or her from this worldly battlefield. Until then, we must continue to fight. If we fall, we must struggle to get up. Never hesitate to ask for help from a fellow Christian, for we are one in Jesus. If we lie spiritually broken on the battlefield, we can still manage to fight as long as there is one breath left in us. One extra blow may make all the difference, for while we can martyr the body, we can never martyr the spirit. If we are driving back the enemy, never relent because evil can quickly regain strength. If the enemy has disappeared, it will most certainly return by surprise in force. If the enemy is fleeing, it is most likely a trap. However, if we fight with dedication in spirit, mind, and body, then by the Lord's grace peace, love, and rest shall come.

CAMPAIGN II

THE MISSION TO SAVE THE CHURCH

The Christian Church was instantly formed by the grace of God on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the first group of Christians gathered at Mark's attic. Before that day the disciples of Jesus Christ were individuals who were led by God to Christ, and they drew from Christ's power while He was with them. With the Holy Spirit, the disciples suddenly received not only a direct relationship with God and Jesus, but also a relationship with each other through a common connection in Jesus. Thus, all true Christians are granted a reflection of the coming kingdom where we will all be one as God the Father and Jesus are one. This link between God and man was made possible through Jesus' teachings, which guided man to reach out to God in prayer, and through Jesus' sacrifice of becoming a man so that God can better reach out to us. The granting of this relationship, which leads to salvation from evil for all the nations of the world, was achieved by Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, which allowed God to justly establish the new covenant.

Sadly, evil was not so easily defeated with the formation of the Church, for the link between man and God on this battlefield against evil cannot be perfect until the battle is won. Likewise, the unity of Christian spirits within the Church was also not perfect because of evil as well as man's own immaturity. What is key in the arrival of the Holy Spirit is that the war against evil in accordance with God's plan turned in our favor. Though it is imperative that each and every Christian fight the internal battle against evil always with the Lord's help, for the first time we were not alone on the battlefield. As the Jews once formed a physical army to serve the Lord, we Christians are members of a spiritual army that fights evil and its minions wherever they lurk. However imperfect this army of Christ is, it will be used perfectly by the Lord to defeat evil and build His coming kingdom. In the Church, as one Christian struggles internally

against the attacks of Satan, other Christians can now rush to his aid, for through the Holy Spirit our spirits can strengthen his. When we pray together, the force is so powerful that no army of darkness can stand in our way. With just two Christians praying, Christ will definitely be there. In the Church, as one Christian lingers in spiritual immaturity, other Christians can now help lift him with their understanding of Christ's teachings. For thousands of years the war against evil was of a defensive nature where God guided the righteous throughout the world, but must nevertheless place them in the World of the Dead to await the sacrifice of Jesus. Even among His precious people, only the very few like Elijah and Moses triumphed against evil to such a degree that they were acceptable to God. With the sacrifice of Jesus, many Christians in the centuries that followed triumphed over evil to rest in paradise until Jesus' return, and the righteous in the World of the Dead will receive the truth of Jesus and be made acceptable to God. The most glorious result of victory over evil is the salvation of souls for the Kingdom of God. However, we must never forget that victory is far from complete and Christ initially came for the fight, not the celebration. The celebration of victory awaits Christ's next return.

The purpose of the Church established through the power of the Holy Spirit was and shall ever be to serve its Lord, Jesus Christ, the supreme commander of God's army and the perfect shepherd of God's people. As members of the Church, all true Christians are warriors, bound by love to serve in God's army of light and sent to the front lines of battle against evil. We are aided by and will soon be joined in force by the army of angels who are still loyal to God. The missions of the Christian army are clear: 1. Spread the good news of Jesus and His teachings to our fellow man across the world in love, so that they too will understand goodness and evil, receive the Holy Spirit, and be blessed with God's grace of salvation; 2. Help fellow Christians grow in their understanding of God's plan and God's will so that together we can better serve our Father and His Son Jesus in love; 3. Stay united in our love for God and one another so that the truth of one God, one perfect Son, and one Church in Christ is fulfilled.

As a key corollary of the first mission, Christians must out of love do everything in their power to help others through their challenging paths of spiritual growth. God's plan to defeat evil is perfect but difficult. Sometimes people must be placed in poverty, illness, and tragedy in order to shape their spirits. Throughout history, God has often used His chosen people to place such trials on others, and God has more often used those lost to evil to impose such trials. For the Jews, their immaturity and faith shielded them from evil in this service to God. As mature Christians, we should perhaps pray for God to not send us into such service out of love for others. Instead, the simpler role of love is to help others out of suffering along with delivering the Word. Though the Word may be received hesitantly, the love that we give will be received right away. Our love in others is the perfect soil to plant the Word so that It will grow in God's time. If Christians must place others in hardship by God's will, we must pray for God to strengthen our love for those whom we must temporarily hurt.

In the two thousand years campaign to spread the Word to the far corners of world, the Lord has led His army on a complex path for its own growth and for the needs of each nation at the perfect time. The details of this path as a testimony of God's perfect plan are discussed in the second book of the Christian Mission Series, *Two Thousand Years With The Word*. In developing this plan for the future of the Church, what is important for us to recognize is that the campaign to spread the Word is nearing completion though great battles are yet to be fought. In this journey, the Lord's priority, based on a study of history, has been perhaps salvation over growth and growth over unity. When a people's spiritual battle against evil was in need of the Word, the Word was delivered whether they could fully understand the truth or not. Even an immature understanding of the Word can spark the spirit to life, faith, and a relationship with the Lord. Thus after the Church was planted and had taken root on fertile ground in the first three centuries, the Lord permitted a vast influx of people of all spiritual qualities and levels of maturity into the Church. As a result, the Church itself became a battleground against evil. The first Christians were special in that the Holy Spirit came upon them in force. Once the Church became a battlefield, the influence of the

Holy Spirit varied greatly from saints to the most ardent of sinners. Yet, the strategy was perfect because, by the time Satan's forces were permitted to attack the Church, the Church was strong enough not only to resist but also claim many of Satan's own for the army of light. Many who joined the Church and received baptism in doubt or insincerity were surrounded by love and truth, and brought to the light.

Sadly, however, battles have casualties, and in this case a growing number of once dedicated Christians have fallen to the temptations of evil and became Christians in name only. These fallen Christians are then the knowing and unknowing pawns of Satan within the Church. As instructed by Christ, many fallen Christians can be rescued back to the Body with the love and guidance of fellow Christians, and a fierce spiritual struggle by the one who has fallen. At times when rescue by other Christians are unsuccessful, fallen Christians must be separated from the Church and placed in the hands of the Lord, for on the battlefield, a compromise cannot be made with evil.

The sad act of excommunication must not be confused with the Lord's plan of permitting Church separation to promote growth and saving non-Christians allowed into the Church. Throughout the centuries, different groups of Christians have grown in different directions at different paces. To ensure that each path of growth that has merit is continued and to control the strife between Christians of varying maturity, the Lord has permitted the Church to divide several times. Though each side at the point of separation often considered the other side as fallen Christians, their continued growth through the centuries appears to indicate that the Lord still sees value in their paths. After two thousand years, though the Word has been delivered to the far comers of the world, it came with the great price of a Church extremely divided. Within each division, the armies of darkness fight ferociously to grow the evil within. As evil grew through the centuries with the power of the human spirit, each division of the Church was in increasingly greater jeopardy of defeat. In these last days when the completion of the Christian mission to prepare the world for the return of Christ our Lord is critical,

the battle within the Church has never been more intense. In these days of trials and tribulations, Christians must turn back to our Lord Jesus' prayer for us to be one as He and God are one, and that through the unity we can triumph over darkness. We must pray for the true Church to unite before the return of Jesus if it is by God's will. As prophesied, the power of the Holy Spirit will be stronger than ever, and an army of Christians 144,000 in strength will oppose a world consumed for a little while by darkness. Perhaps now is the time to work towards unity as one Body in Christ.

A. STUDYING THE THREAT AND THE DYNAMICS OF THE BATTLEFIELD

Three factors oppose the unity of the Church: 1. The varying understanding of Christians, 2. The evil within which many Christians still cannot overcome, and 3. The continuous onslaught of Satan's forces. Satan's strategy to defeat the Church is one of unrelenting attacks from the outside and from within. From the outside, Satan fosters the growth of opposing religions and false ideologies to tempt Christians and hinder those moving towards Christianity. Like a jackal circling a herd of antelopes, the armies of darkness continuously strip away the weak in faith and the lazy from the Christian ranks. In these last days, God has granted Satan the power to raise many false prophets who profess the name of Christ without faith. Some false prophets are directly under the control of Satan, for theirs is a path of deceit to fuel the evil in their followers. Other false prophets are fools believing in Satan's lies, preaching a false understanding.

In these last days, Satan's objectives are to confuse many Christians with false teachings, corrupt Christian leadership with false ideas, and divide the Church with mutual condemnations. If such false teachings, ideas, and judgments cannot be defeated by Christians strong in faith and deep in understanding, Satan wins in every way. Unlike the past when Christian empires ruled the world, the Church today cannot suppress false ideologies with physical force

without secular repercussions. The freedom to follow Satan is assured in many countries. If churches accept the presence of false prophets among their ranks, then evil will spread throughout the Body, for the act of acceptance is already the first step in embracing evil no matter what the rationale. If a church separates from the false prophets, then much of the church may be led away into darkness unless their works can be corrected before they are cast out. In many cases, the works of the false prophets may be so cleverly planted that they cannot be easily rooted out. Many churches have divided over and over again, and yet the false teachings continue to lurk on all sides. In these last days, the Lord has planned that Christians will have no other weapon but the perfect sword of the Word. After centuries of growth, we should be able to wield this sword as true warriors in the army of Christ.

While Satan and his army of darkness are a formidable force which God has temporarily permitted to have power, their ways can be understood and defeated with the fullness of the Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Satan, after all, is still a creation of God, though lost to evil. Satan's plans are meticulous and logical, while the pure nature of evil is chaotic and deeply permeating. The evil that divides the Church lies in every Christian, for in every Christian the great battle against evil rages on. It is this evil that forces our spiritual separation until the Lord makes us pure. However, whether this evil will be strong enough to divide Christians depends on how dedicated we are in fighting it with the Lord's help. While in this battle, Christians must always recognize that it is far easier for those consumed by evil to unite, for they have the commonality of evil to unite them. Unfortunately, Christians are not consumed by good. Instead, our individual battles against evil have led to a variation in spiritual quality as diverse as the number of Christians in the Church. If we look for evil in fellow Christians, we will always find it. If we demand justice in the Church, we will face disappointment. If we seek to condemn, the Church will eventually be dissolved down to individuals waiting to be collected by evil.

To resist evil requires great spiritual strength, purity, and dedication. However, to resist the division created by evil, just as in

fighting the deceptions of Satan, requires even greater spiritual maturity. Our desire for justice stems not from evil but from the nature of the Lord in us. However, our demand for it is a sign of our immaturity and our inability to understand the Lord's plan. Our desire for establishing a unified Church of common Christians is natural because such a commonality will be achieved when we are spiritually joined in the Kingdom of God. However, our unwillingness to unite because of our differences, is a sign of our immaturity and our inability to separate the nature of people from the evil that alters them. The central understanding of spiritual maturity is to see that Christians must unite out of love for each other, not out of a quest for perfect union or power. Power is, however, a great gift in unity. The perfect union will be created by the Lord in the coming Kingdom, and the power of unity must strictly be an instrument of the Lord.

With this maturity in love and commitment by every Christian to the battle against evil, the Christian churches of the world could begin to complete their internal battle against the armies of darkness. Deceptions can be identified. Stubbornness can be erased. Pride can be set aside. One united Church with one united Christian army to harvest all who belong to the Lord can be formed. Before we start confronting the misunderstandings and immaturities in the Church fostered by Satan's forces, we must first address one real factor that divides the Church, which is the spiritual needs of different groups of Christians. In the days of the Old Testament, God anointed prophets, kings, and priests to guard and nurture the spiritual needs of His people. After the sacrifice of Christ, the people who were true disciples were granted the power of the Holy Spirit so that they could guard and nurture themselves. Though prophets have seldom been given to the Church after the first century and will not come in force until the last days as recorded in Revelation, the placement of this authority for spiritual guardianship on kings, priests, and the people has been a major factor in Church separations. In some cases, the variation in authority was perhaps willed by the Lord because of the different spiritual needs of the people. However, in all cases, Satan's forces seek to trap each group by hindering growth and

promoting spiritual degeneration. Many Christians throughout history were trapped just as the Jews were trapped, even when given a perfect set of laws by the Lord.

To study this factor in disunity, the Catholic Church separated with the Orthodox Church in part because of the authority acquired by the priesthood after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The Protestant Church then separated from the Catholic Church out of rebellion against the authority of the priesthood. Some, such as the Presbyterians, replaced this authority with that of the scriptures and the people. Others, such as the Anglicans, were formed because of a king's demand for authority. Either way, the authority of the kings increased again once churches broke away from the central authority of the Vatican. This eventually led to a rebellion against the authority of the kings by such groups as the Puritans, Quakers, and Anabaptists. While some were crushed by the state, others founded new churches and a form of government by the people in the Americas. In time, many Christians were led away from the Church when they were unable to resist the temptations of Satan. Many others stayed in the Church out of dependence, but with their passion for serving and growing dissolved. In confusion and desperation, Christian groups again separated to seek prophets and/or a direct, pure, relationship with the Lord as children. Many who sought prophets were led astray by false prophets, for the time of the prophets has not yet arrived. Many who sought the Lord as children drifted away from deep scriptural studies and commitment to being powerful servants in the Lord's army. Though Christians must have the heart and purity of a child, we must also strive to be mature in God's plan and be shrewd in the ways of this world.

In achieving unity for the Church, Christians must decide together whether they want a unity of authority beyond the absolute authority of the Lord. But first, all Christian authority must recognize that they are for the service of God's will, which is to harvest and grow the spirits who belong to Him. When the spiritual needs of the people have matured beyond any central human authority, that authority must be relinquished so as to not trap growing spirits. Alternatively, if the individual authority of the people is sought

after and gained prematurely, their spirits could be led astray. Even with the dangers, the Lord has typically granted whichever form of authority that the people cried out for. Nevertheless, the Lord's will has been clear since the days of the Old Testament. The perfect Church organization is formed when all the people directly guided by the Lord and united with each other through the Holy Spirit. However, this is an ideal that may have to wait until the return of Christ, and for now a Church organization must be built.

Even in the first century, the Church was led by apostles who embodied the position of both prophets in their closeness to the Lord and priests in their caring for the people. Jesus specifically gave Peter authority over the Church. In a time without prophets, the guidance of the people is left to the priests who must act in strict accordance with scriptures and work to grow the spirits under their guardianship so that they can all one day become as prophets in their closeness to the Lord. In the days of old as it is now, the divine authority of kings was only granted if the people rejected the direct leadership of the Lord. Kings are like the people, and thus may draw greater understanding and loyalty from the people. However, kings are vulnerable to the temptations of this world as it was true with David and other lesser kings. Since kings, unlike prophets and priests, act as substitutes for the authority of the Lord, the people who are willing to place their spiritual growth under a king must share the king's fate.

B. BUILDING TOMORROW'S CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Based on the previous discussion, the churches that are the hardest to unite are those under the control of kings. In these last days, there are very few churches in that position. In these last days, very few churches are yet so blessed with the Holy Spirit that they are guided by the Lord through prophets. This means that the organization and authority of the Church is primarily between the people and their priests. In this matter, the simplest decision in the Church is to recognize that there is a real division between those

who have embraced the Word and received the Holy Spirit and those who are still struggling with their spirits but want to come to Christ. It is this latter group that is more appropriately called the lay people while the first group should be called disciples. Among the disciples there will be those who are called by the Lord to be shepherds, serving the Church as priests. Others will be called upon to journey into the world to deliver the message of love and salvation as missionaries. Some will be given the gift of understanding to become teachers. Others will take on administrative duties as deacons.

Among this group, clearly the priesthood must be the most spiritually powerful, for they must protect the Church from the armies of darkness and the growth of evil within. They must know the Word and live the Word. They must seek out and defeat evil with the power of the Holy Spirit, wherever it emerges among the people, and unite the people in love. When a sheep strays, they must rescue it, risking all dangers. To succeed in this calling, a priest, once accepted in a body of disciples, must have appropriate authority. However, this authority should not exceed what is necessary for the priests to serve. Thus, the level of this authority could vary from church to church depending on the conditions of the sheep. If a priest is serving a group of powerful Christians filled with the Holy Spirit, he may only need minimal authority to coordinate group activities. If a priest is taking care of a group of rebellious, confused sheep, he may need full authority to direct and even excommunicate. In such cases, the authority of the priest must be supported by a larger, truer group of Christians beyond the local rebellious people that he serves. Many churches have strayed away from the Lord because the people abused their authority over their priest. In the end, many priests weaken and begin to cater to the impure wishes of their congregation, especially to those who provide large offerings.

Because priests are perhaps the number one targets of the armies of darkness, every priest must be under the guardianship of other priests. Thus, the formation of a council of priests for all the churches across the world may be a very beneficial. This council of priests can then develop its own internal organization for

advancing the service of priesthood, fostering the next generation of priests, and helping those priests in danger of defeat by evil. Though this organization may be hierarchical in nature, it should not be treated as the supreme authority over the Church unless all the disciples wish it so.

In the first century, the apostles gave administrative authority, which included the handling of money, to select individuals. In today's churches, such responsibilities are often taken up by deacons. Following a similar path, a separate council of deacons could be formed across all the churches to advance the administrative needs of the Church, identify individual Church concerns and correct deficiencies. While each deacon is under the spiritual guardianship of his priest, the administrative authority should belong to him. This administrative authority should be undertaken to meet the needs of the Church and not to control it. Financial needs should be identified by each service group, and the administrators responsible should be allowed to find ways to fund the needs, especially those established by the priests and missionaries.

While the priests are strong in spiritual power, the missionaries should be strong in spiritual purity. They are at the front line of battle, and faith is their only shield. While priests must defend against the armies of darkness, the missionaries must attack into the realm of darkness. Though they may not need the same depth of scriptural understanding as that required to grow a maturing group of Christians, a missionary must be shrewd about the ways of this world that they are fighting in. So they, like the priests and all Christians, must be mature. A missionary's service is so difficult and his battle to remain in love is so challenging that his power must come from the Lord directly. Indeed, the Lord does protect the missionaries, especially in spirit. Many missionaries are denied great prosperity and even recognition for their work. Yet, the seeds that they have planted are true, and the soil has been carefully prepared by the Lord. The council of missionaries must not only identify and rescue those missionaries in jeopardy of spiritual defeat, but also bring the entire missionary effort across the world together into an integrated whole. Because of their service, the missionary organization may resemble that of a conventional army. There are

generals and staff officers for strategic planning. There are field commanders and assistants for tactical planning. Most important, there are the troops who are specially chosen by the Lord. Missionaries who wander into the world alone without organization and the support of the rest of the Church may find themselves overwhelmed by the world. Perhaps only the apostles and saints could journey into the world alone.

Among the missionaries, the Apostle Paul was without doubt the greatest general. He led from the frontline of battle, building Christian strongholds that would eventually take over the Roman Empire. At these strongholds, he first fed the troops with the food of the spirit. Then, he gave firm straightforward guidance for the battles ahead. Paul was a shrewd leader, well-versed in the ways of the Roman Empire and the culture of the Greeks. His mission trips were conducted after careful spiritual and physical preparation, the first being ten years after he was called to service by Jesus. Thus, he was able to avoid death, even when captured, until his mission was done and his time of martyrdom had come. Despite his brilliance, Paul always allowed the Lord to be his supreme commander, never acting independently or in arrogance.

To honor Apostle Paul's guidance, the protection of the spiritual purity of women serving as priests, missionaries, and deacons must be of the highest priority within the different councils. It is Christian tradition and not law that women could deliver the Word but should refrain from offering their own interpretations. However, we must also recognize that the spiritual qualities of men and women, though still different, have grown in these past two thousand years. Considering both traditions and the increasing spiritual capability of women in doing battle against the armies of darkness, the councils of priests, deacons, and missionaries should perhaps approve women for special service carefully on an individual basis. They must make sure that such pursuits on the part of women disciples are based upon a true calling and love for the Lord, and not upon personal arrogance or demands for equality. Once in service, the spiritual strength of women must be uniquely cared for by disciples around her, and her authority over men must be freely granted by the men under her leadership. In cases where women are called to priesthood, they will

surely become the center of attack by evil. Thus, it is perhaps better that women priests and maybe also male priests develop their teachings of the Holy Bible as part of a team rather than as individuals. It would be even safer spiritually if women priests fulfilled their calling by reading from the Bible and offering established teachings. To honor the relationship between man and woman they could also lead not by authority but through the inspiration of their actions in life. Out of love and concern for women, we should perhaps pray that women, even when filled with the Holy Spirit, be not called upon by the Lord to enter the front lines of battle, and that women will not seek to enter the front lines of battle based on their own needs.

The one difficult position in the church organization is that of the pope. Peter, the first Bishop of Rome, did indeed have supreme power over the Church. However, Peter was an apostle with priest and prophet powers. For anyone now to occupy the position of Peter, he should not only be a priest but also a prophet. His supreme authority must be granted by the Lord. Alternatively, if all the disciples across the world decided that one person should have such authority, the Lord will accept such a decision. The Church may, however, decide that it needs a leader, but without the supreme power of Peter. Such a leader may at times be necessary to provide a singular focus for the Church during periods when prophets have not been sent by the Lord. Such a leader must still be filled with the Holy Spirit, for without absolute guidance and visions provided by the Lord, he must rely upon the strength given by the Holy Spirit and a deep understanding of scriptures to support his actions. Unlike prophets, however, such a leader is not given the power to advance scriptures. Instead, his actions must be measured for agreement with scriptures.

For those Christian leaders who claim the authority of prophets, their correctness is between themselves and the Lord, for the Lord is their direct master. Any intervention into the authority of prophets by Christians before they have been shown to be false prophets could be an offense to the Lord. Thus, a Christian's one true decision concerning prophets, unless one can reveal their fallacy, is whether to follow them. In the days when the Jews were directly led by the

Lord, false prophets were to be killed and eliminated from their kingdom. In these last days, the Lord will still expose false prophets if we would only see. However, our power to physically stop them has been taken away. Instead, they must be defeated with the power and meaning of the Word. After such defeat, false prophets must be excommunicated from the Body of Christ and left to the Lord. If Christians are not powerful enough to expose the work of the false prophets but do feel that they are false, it is best that these Christians simply not follow them. If such feelings by Christians turn out to be incorrect because of Satan's trickery, this simple separation from a true but misunderstood prophet would not harm him. Throughout history prophets have seldom been understood by the people they were sent to save, and seldom have such immature people permitted the prophets to continue unharmed.

In summary, we have outlined a new global Church organization that calls the disciples into service and looks after the spiritual needs of the laity so that they will grow into receiving the Holy Spirit and the responsibilities of discipleship. Though the responsibilities of disciples are varied in function and levels of commitment, three unique areas of responsibility (priesthood, missionary work, and deaconship) carry such burdens and vulnerabilities to the forces of darkness that the establishment of unified well organized councils for each area may be essential. These councils, with unique organizational structures agreed to by the members, would then guard the spiritual strength of each member, establish overarching plans for the advancement of their effort, and train the next generation of the Lord's servants. The growth of the Church requires the dedication of each council to their area of responsibility and towards supporting the other areas.

Though the missionaries plant the seeds, they must know when to let the priests grow the harvest. Though the priests grow the harvest, they must know what jobs in' the field are better left to deacons so that the harvest will get all that is needed. A missionary cannot stay with one flock nor worry about money, for his mission will suffer. A priest cannot be away from his flock for too long nor worry about money and church operations, for his flock might be

stolen. Deacons cannot assume the authority of priests or missionaries, for they will be consumed by temptation. This path, though ideal, is very hard to follow because of all the disagreements in fundamental beliefs and church practices that encourage disputes within service groups and among service groups. As a result, historically there has been a tendency for even dedicated disciples to want to seize power and dominate the church for the good of the church. This desire has to be overcome, for unless the power is granted by the Lord without personal questing, the dangers may be too much to bear. In the end, if the missionaries can stay focused, the priests can stay pure, and the deacons can stay humble, then by the Lord's permission a global Church organization can be established.

C. RESOLVING THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES

With the creation of any type of global forum where disciples across the world can gather either personally or through representatives, Christians can start to work out fundamental theological issues as well as trivial issues that some care about. This forum can emerge from the current World Council of Churches that has gathered several times in the twentieth century. The challenge is to make sure that all the churches and varying viewpoints are represented. The first issue to be resolved is to decide whether we should first build a single united Church entity despite varying viewpoints or to converge the views, which may take years, before uniting the Church.

A word of warning must be provided with the formation of any church organization with subdivisions. Any subgroup, whether it is based on service area or denominational differences, runs the danger of developing independent dynamics that hinder the well being of the whole. One such concern is the growth of the subgroup beyond the needs of the whole and placing an increased burden on the whole. As an example, so many dedicated disciples may rush into the service of priesthood that very soon one has several shepherds

guarding each sheep and demanding to be fed by the sheep. Though it is within the rights of all those totally dedicated to the Lord's work and serving the Lord's will to be taken care of by the rest of the Body, Paul taught us that any Christian who reduces such a burden on the Body has already served the Body. So, all who wish to dedicate themselves completely to the Lord's work should make sure through prayer that they are indeed serving the Lord's will, and all who serve the Lord fully should still consider taking on non-interfering jobs to reduce the Church's burden. Another concern is the imbalanced growth of a subgroup motivating a struggle for domination in the Church. The Church should not be a democracy vulnerable to the tyranny of the masses. Those points of view that are not scripturally denounced must be treated as equal no matter how many Christians back it.

Fundamental Issues Pertaining to Salvation

The effort to resolve theological differences must start at the beginning with the requirements for salvation after the Lord has led us to the Word. First, Christians should come to a consensus on the quality of spirit (love, faith, and hope) necessary to be eventually received by the Lord. Without the capacity to love the Lord and others, a Christian cannot win against the forces of darkness. Without faith, a Christian cannot build a relationship with the Lord to fight against the darkness. Without hope, a Christian cannot rise above his current state of spiritual immaturity and the evil that traps him. These spiritual qualities are awakened by the Word, but some degree of these spiritual qualities must also be latently present in order to receive the Word. Once the Word has been received, the fundamental understanding must be clear. This understanding is eloquently expressed through the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth:*

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Universal Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

By such a declaration, Christians must recognize that Jesus is Lord and that the Body of Christ was created to be a single whole. Further, Christians must recognize that salvation is achieved through following God's will as taught to us by Jesus. It is this following of God in love, rather than just calling out to Jesus, that drives back the evil in us and permits us to be received by God's grace. The truth is that we cannot just sit back, but be dedicated to the fight to defeat evil. When we callout to Jesus in faith, however, a powerful helper in the form of the Holy Spirit will descend upon us. This helper empowers our spirits and serves as a bridge between our spirits and God so that God's love, plan, and will for us can be better realized. With this spiritual awakening should come a realization of the fullness and perfection in the meaning behind the Ten Commandments given to Moses. Though few of us can meet the perfection of such guidelines as law, all of us should strive to follow the guidelines as a fundamental part of serving God's will.

The above presentation is deeply rooted in scripture and church practices since the early days of the Church. Thus, all the churches today that profess to be Christian churches should have no difficulty embracing such requirements to be a Christian. Yet, many will place additional standards, and many will not accept other churches as legitimate parts of the Body of Christ. There is, however, one unique

case where the Apostles' Creed is defied: the Mormon Church. The Mormons accept the Holy Bible and Jesus as Lord. However, they believe in a different Jesus where two separate churches were established to grow independently until reaching a convergence at the point Of its founder in 1823. From that point, they believe that the church founded in the Americas will rise and replace the corrupt church that grew from Jerusalem as the one true church. This belief puts the Mormons in complete opposition to the rest of the Christian body. We in the rest of the Christian body are now faced with a difficult decision of whether to leave the Mormons to their fate with the Lord or to rescue them from their state of confusion.

Since this disciple cannot abandon the Mormons or anyone without a fight, a special detailed campaign to rescue the Mormons by correcting the misunderstanding in their Book of the Mormons is presented at the end of this discussion. This campaign may also serve as an example of how to carry strategies and tactics to the point of execution on the battlefields against the armies of darkness. To my Christian brothers and sisters, I can only offer the view that, while in the war against evil we must yield some futile battles so that other battles can be won, it is indeed sad if we yield a battle before we have even engaged the enemy. The confusion created by the forces of darkness that has befallen on parts of the Christian community has not been engaged in battle. So, if one chooses to fight, the enemy will be strong and the dangers will be great. The specific discussion of the Book of Mormon to be presented is but a first blow, and those who seek to preserve the confusion will surely counterattack. Christians who wish to stay on this field of battle must stand behind the Lord in faith. Those who stay on this field of battle may also wish to stand with me and use me to absorb some of the attacks by evil's forces. Those people who we are trying to save will call us deceivers and villains in their state of confusion. Of this I care not, if I can help one spirit embrace the truth.

Issues Stemming from Variations in Growth

The second set of theological differences between churches is more substantial, and many of these differences have divided the Church for centuries. As discussed earlier, these differences

emerged as a result of diverging paths in Christian growth and maturation. In some cases, neither of the opposing theological views may be correct. The truth often may lie somewhere in between. In other cases, a new understanding by one group of Christians might not be appreciated by another group until they have spiritually matured a little further. Variation in spiritual maturity, however, does not necessarily mean that some Christians are not saved, nor does it mean that they cannot be powerful servants of the Lord. Compared to the truth and power that we all will receive in God's coming Kingdom, we are all children at this point. The only difference is that the Lord uses us differently depending on whether we are infants or toddlers. With this understanding, the lack of agreement among Christians should not be a factor that divides us.

The first theological issue related to a growth in understanding is the relationship between God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. While the condition for spiritual birth hinges on recognizing that Jesus is the Son of God, many have debated what it means for the Son to be one with the Father. Clearly there are distinctions, for the Father is the embodiment of good while the Son cannot be considered as such. The Father knows the occurrence of all things while certain knowledge of the future are not provided to the Son nor all the other beings of Heaven. Yet, there is union between Father and Son which must be of the spirit. So, the spirit of the Son reaches into the spirit of the Father, and the spirit of the Father reaches into the spirit of the Son. Together they are Lord. There is no dividing line between the two spirits. However, the consciousness of the Son is still unique and not consumed in this union with the Father. Thus, the Son can argue for all those who belong to Him on the last day.

In contrast, the Holy Spirit is a more elusive entity. It is in Jesus, and so it must be in God for Jesus is in God. It reaches into us, and with it God reaches into us. However, in our infancy and spiritual impurity, we cannot yet reach into God. The Holy Spirit delivered the spirit of Jesus into the womb of Mary. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles and prophets, and permitted them to perform great miracles that served the Lord's will. Always, the Holy Spirit can fill us with the right powers to serve the Lord. This may

not be the power to perform miracles if the world no longer needs miracles. This may not be the power to speak in tongues if we need understanding more than tongues. The gifts of the Spirit are bountiful if our faith is strong enough to receive them.

The second great historical issue is the relationship of man with the Father and the Son. With it comes the debate over the nature of spiritual power as a whole. If we are all children before the Lord, how much closer are the saints among us to the Lord? Indeed, a few prophets of old, like Moses and Elijah, do stand with Jesus this day and the apostles will one day become kings. However, does the Lord use these spirits as He uses the angels to assist in the activities of the world? Revelation suggests that the Christian saints are now resting, waiting to be the first to rise when Jesus returns. If so, they cannot hear our prayers and therefore argue on our behalf unless it is through God. If the saints are as the angels among us, they can hear only words while the Lord can hear our spirits from the inside through the Holy Spirit. Either way, all Christians must agree that our prayers should be to the Father, whether the saints can or cannot hear. If our prayers are truly personal communications with the Lord, why do we need others outside to argue our case? If we cannot hear the Lord in us, would seeking others as surrogates to reach the Lord be surrendering to our limitations? Yet, if the belief in the supportive and even intercessive abilities of spirits like us can increase our faith to create a personal relationship with the Lord, then perhaps the Lord might allow such a belief, whether right or wrong, to continue a while longer.

This power of belief to enhance our faith may also explain the effect of relics and icons. Knowing that a piece of cloth came from an apostle can provide additional focus in our prayers. What is of great concern is if any icon or relic started to exhibit powers without prayer and perhaps even without belief in Christ. In that case, whether the power in an object is truly residual power from saints or not, the use of such power is against the Lord's will. In growth, it is better for Christians not to rely on anything but the guidance of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to communicate with our Father in Heaven.

The third major historical issue pertains to the role and contents of the Holy Bible. To some, the Bible is a document formed through the diligent collective efforts of faithful church leaders in the early centuries. Many writings were rejected while others were accepted after much debate. As such, church leaders in the following centuries have a sacred duty to advance the contents and translations of the Bible as faith demands so that the works of the Lord as recorded by His chosen prophets are better captured to guide and inspire Christians in the centuries to come. To others more removed from this early church heritage, the Bible is the Holy Word of God set onto paper by chosen prophets but also collected together by chosen servants as to not be debated by the servants who followed. Yet, a third position is formed by those who view the Bible as a work by men of faith who were imperfect in their attempts to capture the greatness of the Lord. This last position is flawed in the view of the Lord as One who does not actively oversee every detail in this world. A Lord who intervenes and loves His people would want to give the complete truth in all its complexity to those who can and want to receive it. Though the human writers were flawed, God who controlled their pens is perfect in action. Such words from God will have layers and layers of meaning as a Christian grows and continuously turns to the Bible. If the Christian Holy Bible is not this text, then Christianity is not the true religion but simply another group of people fumbling in the dark, grasping for glimpses of the Lord's truth. Yet, one only has to read through the Holy Bible to realize that it is indeed the perfect and complete truth.

Concerning the disagreements over Bible contents, the resolution is more obscure. Indeed, Christians empowered with the Holy Spirit can advance the Bible, and few debate that the Christians who collected the books of the New Testament were not filled with the Holy Spirit. In fact, those Christians called upon to be prophets can even add to the Bible with their own writings, if such writings are directed by the Lord as felt by all who have received the Holy Spirit. The age of such prophets passed with the first century, and faith tells this disciple that the New Testament sent out to the world was a complete text. Current dispute centers on whether Christians were

given the authority to reconsider the books entered into the Jewish Old Testament. In one position, the Jewish Old Testament was formed in a time when the Jews were still God's most beloved people. Therefore, their selection of the contents should be honored and kept as a closure to that period of God's plan. In opposition, Christians can be viewed as direct inheritors of Jewish responsibility. If new writings from ancient times surfaced, they must be examined as to whether they are by God's will and could be added to the Holy Bible. The decision between these two opposing positions cannot be achieved by principle alone. Thus, one must reexamine all the currently debated additions to the Jewish Old Testament. The results of an examination are presented later.

The effort to establish a common Bible discussed above absolutely does not include debating those perversions of the Bible which are becoming ever more popular today. By perversion, we are referring to a translation of the Bible which embodies a deliberate attempt to alter the meaning from historic texts. Among the perversions are an attempt to eliminate gender from the Bible and perhaps portray God as female, and an attempt to simplify Biblical teachings to appeal to the current readership. These perversions must be rejected by the Church. In the case of gender issues with the Bible, Christians who are consumed by secular ideology must be shown that, though the Lord has permitted the relationship between man and woman to change in the twentieth century, there shall nevertheless be a difference between man and woman until their spirits depart this world. All those who are saved will be elevated to become sons and not daughters of God in His Kingdom. On the issue of simplifying the Bible, the Word of God cannot be altered just because the people cannot understand. What good is it to have the whole world embracing the Bible if the Bible is no longer the Word of God? Some may argue that traditional Biblical teachings no longer apply explicitly in modern times. One of the main purposes of this and the two preceding books is to show that the argument is false. The challenge for church leaders is greater in these modern times but the Word of God will stand for all times, long after the passing of today's world.

One unique concern that may become a future issue is the veneration of Mary, mother of Jesus. Indeed, her position is the most blessed among women, and her spiritual quality must have pleased God. The spirit of Jesus, who has been with God since the beginning, was delivered into her womb by the Holy Spirit. As a result, a part of Jesus' spirit flowed into her and a part of her spirit flowed into Jesus. Thus, through her Jesus began His journey of experiencing the battle against evil through man's eyes. Mary's spiritual joining with Jesus surpassed that of all others, even the apostles, in this world. However, in Heaven any person's spiritual status will be far greater, just as the least spirit in Heaven is greater than John the Baptist, the greatest man. Because of all this and more, Mary should be remembered in the Church as an inspiration to all women.

However, there is a movement in parts of the Christian realm to continue to elevate the position of Mary until she is divine like Jesus. Jesus may not mind sharing people's praise with Mary, for He has worked for countless generations without praise, and Mary in Heaven like the rest of us is a brother to Jesus. What is most important is that God's position and authority is not challenged. Despite the fact that this devotion to Mary along with Jesus may be accepted in Heaven, the unity of theological views and the growth of the Church demand a clarification of arguments. The conclusion made by some that Mary must be divine since Jesus is divine is only valid if Mary produced Jesus as a new spirit with God as the Father. In which case, Jesus would then not be perfect if Mary was not perfect. The clarification that must be recognized is that all scriptural teachings indicate that Mary only gave birth to Jesus. John specifically wrote that Jesus was not a new spirit. There is no evidence that Mary received spiritual and physical relations with God in a male to female manner. In God's goodness, if that were so, Mary should be regarded as the wife of God.

This clearly is not so. In fact, at the point of Jesus' first miracle, He addressed Mary as simply "woman" and not "mother." Because of Mary's inability to comprehend Jesus' full mission in the world and because of her desire to use Jesus' powers on trivial things, Jesus, the Son of God, addressed Mary as "woman," placing her as a daughter of man.

Issues Stemming from Variations in Practices

The third and last level of issues that divide Christians pertains to practices. It is indeed ironic that after agreeing on such important things as the instrument of our spiritual salvation, we in the end are often divided by the smallest, most trivial of things. The real issue is that when one group of Christians relies on a certain practice as a facilitator of faith, they may quickly come to regard it as being essential for all Christians. We Christians are beings of the spirit, and the needs of the spirit in the process of growing towards the Lord and in battling the forces of darkness are what is most important. Every Christian has different spiritual needs. As Paul revealed, one Christian can violate Old Testament food restrictions in great sin while another Christian can eat anything except food offered to idols without sinning at all. Likewise, all true Christians must be baptized by the Holy Spirit. However, if any group of Christians needs the physical baptism of full immersion into water to focus their faith, they should proceed. If another group of Christians can receive the Holy Spirit with a drop of water, that is also fine. If the first group rejects the second, perhaps they are focusing too much on the physical. If the second group cannot see the powerful physical effect of pure water on the body in motivating the spirit, they are perhaps a little too arrogant.

In the remembrance of our Lord Jesus, some Christians require only a gesture in communion while others use the bread and wine as the physical instrument to receive the body and blood of Christ. With such properties as a result of faith, the bread and wine can be considered as transubstantiated. In this latter case, a Christian must realize that the true indicator of the blood of Christ being drunk is a rushing in of the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ being consumed is an increased awareness of God's truth. Without these two spiritual effects, the bread is only bread and the wine is only wine, for Christ is of the spirit. Because of the spiritual significance of this process, the leadership of priests in delivering the physical bread and wine is important. For those who need only a gesture of remembrance, it is adequate if the body and blood of Christ already dwells continuously in one's spirit. If one is not filled with the Holy Spirit and the truth, then far more than a gesture or symbol is needed.

Because of the expression of love embodied in such a remembrance ceremony, any group of disciples should be free to perform this latter type of communion service as a part of their worship.

The most difficult practice-related issues to resolve are varying guidelines in Christian behavior established by the churches and varying corrective actions when such guidelines are not met. Paul taught us that Christians cannot be governed by laws for the laws bring death. Nevertheless, Christians must live by standards of right and wrong in serving the Lord. Since these standards are not laws, their embrace by Christians must be voluntary through understanding. Through understanding, one follows the way of the Lord rather than just obeying physical laws. If there are no laws, then there can be no condemnation and punishment. Nevertheless, a Christian, especially a priest, does have the duty of guardianship over other Christians. This means that we do have the right to assess the actions and words of our brothers and sisters to decide whether they misunderstood Christian ways as taught in the Bible, experienced a moment of weakness in the battle against evil, or have rejected Christian ways. Our duty is first to help them understand through the most private and spiritually close manner. If they understand but cannot embrace such teachings, we must give them our spiritual strength. The whole church may have to confront them in love to convince them to change and repent. The church's forgiveness of repenting Christians should be instant and always forthcoming as long as they continue to fight against evil, no matter how many times they have tripped. In the most extreme case when a Christian has rejected a fundamental principle of our faith despite the support of the church, he should be asked to separate from the church, but not from God. In God's hands he may face trials and tribulation to reshape his spirit. The church must not interfere with God's actions, but must pray for the rapid redemption of the soul. In no part of all these actions does the church ever condemn or punish.

Though the guidelines for helping Christians out of sin is straightforward in scripture, the definition of what is considered sin is complex and often depends on the quality of the spirit. The

most definitive standard for actions of sin is anything that is done which reflects a lack of love for God and others. Most definitely this is captured in any action contrary to the direction of the Ten Commandments. The rejection of these guidelines and/or the fundamental requirements for salvation as discussed above is definitely grounds for separation or "excommunication," if one wishes to use a harsher term. Beyond these top level standards, the issue of what constitutes sin becomes more complex as Christian understanding varies. Physical reflections of a Christian's lack of love for others include acts of adultery, deception, hatred, and any selfish deed that clearly leads to the known physical harm of others.

Among the currently debated subject matters in Christian behavior are divorce, the accumulation of wealth, homosexuality, and any deed that may have knowingly led to the spiritual harm of others. The institution of marriage was established by the Lord to create a unique spiritual union in love which is a reflection of what is to come in Heaven. If that spiritual union is not possible, the marriage is still a training event for two spirits to remain dedicated to a promise under all adversities. The importance of this training versus the spiritual damage resulting from people pressured to stay in it varies with each group of Christians. No matter how much two spirits are suffering in a marriage, a divorce, except in the case of adultery, is a Christian failure. Those who have given in to such failure must recognize that they have sinned. Their priest must carefully establish the reaction to and recovery from such sin based on the needs of the individuals and the whole flock. In flocks where this sin emerges under the slightest testing, the shepherd must lead the whole back to the ways of the Lord. In flocks where this sin only emerges under extremely hard testing, perhaps the focus should be on individual spiritual repentance, healing, and returning to the love of the Lord.

Wealth is a power, to help others and oneself, granted by the Lord. Clearly, a Christian should only use what he needs and avoid indulging in luxuries. Apart from the more extreme cases, such as Christians driving gold limousines, the needs of each Christian are only understood by the Lord and perhaps a very attentive priest. Again, the church's reaction to obvious and excessive indulgences

must be carefully established by the priest based on the spiritual needs of his flock.

The practice of homosexuality is against the Lord's plan even though some may be tested with such physical desires. Further, even the embrace of homosexual desires by a man can be considered to be in opposition to the guidance of the tenth Commandment. As such, a church cannot recognize homosexual activities as conforming with the Lord's desires. However, the church that singles out homosexuality for reaction while remaining lax on other sins may indeed be guilty of persecution.

The most complex assessment by Christians of others lies in identifying intentional acts that do spiritual harm. Every Christian inevitably causes spiritual harm on some people. In many cases, it is the spiritual weakness of others that is most responsible for the harm. Even a saint in his humility can lead others to jealousy and anger. Thus, being a Christian becomes increasingly more difficult as one's awareness of the effects of one's actions increases. The only solution to this increased responsibility is to increase our relationship with the Lord and let the Lord lead us in all our actions. However, very few of us can find the purity to achieve such a relationship with the Lord, especially as our awareness grows. In the end, the simple fact is that Christians are sinners. We fight the intentional sins by encouraging the offender towards repentance, and we fight the unintentional sins by increasing understanding so that a spirit will mature towards God's will and away from sin. It is in this fight that Christians find grace and salvation.

After discussing the practice-related issues involving all the Christian disciples, the last set of issues pertains to whether sub-groups within the discipleship with unique responsibilities should have additional standards of practice imposed on them. The two most spiritually demanding groups are the priests and the missionaries. To facilitate the ability to meet such spiritual dedication, Paul's encouragement is for people not to marry. However, Paul also clearly indicated that if one possesses such passion of the spirit that is met by physical love, then it is better for one to marry. With the formal establishment of the institution of priesthood well after the passing of the apostles, the debate has centered on whether

married disciples can meet the responsibilities of priesthood. There is some merit to this concern since, while all Christians' first responsibility is to God, their next responsibility should be to their families, before their flock. One must first love the closest spirits before one can love others further away. However, this introduces a tremendous conflict of interest that fuels the debate about mandatory celibacy in the priesthood.

Whether or not the practice of celibacy has merit, the fact is that the rest of the apostles other than Paul were all married. So, to say that anyone cannot meet the responsibilities of priesthood unless one is celibate is to say that the apostles should not have been in their position. In addition, the struggle to stay celibate on the part of priests may create an additional spiritual challenge that could hinder their efforts. Perhaps the greatest issue with imposing celibacy on priests is that it forces the separation of priests into a unique group of Christians beyond the disciples. This is in contrast to our presentation where priesthood should simply be a service function that spiritually capable disciples can enter into at any time and perhaps even relinquish when the calling changes. The unique benefit of this position is that priests who are married can relinquish their priestly responsibilities in the case of severe conflicts of interest without feeling that they have failed God. Despite the fact that we have presented a structure that permits priests to marry, Christians must always recognize the ideal of achieving such spiritual devotion where physical reflections of love no longer emerge.

The second traditional requirement of priesthood is the relinquishing of personal wealth. This is far easier for unmarried priests than for priests with large families. Even when the church assumes responsibility for the family of priests, is it proper for the children of priests to not have the same financial advantage as those of other disciples? During the days of the first church, when Christians shared their combined wealth, this was not an issue. However, Christians are now cast into the world, and in the world does a father not want to give his sons and daughters the choices that other children have? Many children of priests who had to grow up, not in the community of Christians but in the realities of the secular world, eventually question their parents' love. Some even reject the church

to pursue the wealth of this world, something they have never known and thus have never learned to resist. The Biblical teachings on material wealth is that while Jesus walked among men, those of His disciples seeking to be perfect should give up all their wealth to the poor and place themselves in Jesus' hands. However, He also taught us that after His departure, even the apostles need to carry swords and purses to spread the Word in the world. Clearly, all the churches, no matter how much is given to the poor, must still manage money and pay bills. Thus, the only difference is that some churches' financial management includes the well-being of the priesthood while others provide their priests with individual funding and financial responsibilities.

In today's corrupting financial environment, to take care of a priest and his family may indeed help him stay pure to God's service. However, that priest is also denied the continued opportunity to triumph above temptations and use his personal funding in unique missions of love that may not be appropriate for the whole church to undertake. For example, a church must use its limited financial resources to maximize the spreading of the Word and the total reduction of human suffering. In this process, some hard and often impersonal decisions may have to be made. However, as individuals we cannot be impersonal. By giving priests personal funds, we have granted them power to express love and support to one unique orphan, cripple, or homeless person God has sent. Even if a priest decides to provide a little extra comfort to his children, as long as it does not reflect an indulgence in luxuries, it is but a father's love. Given this perspective and the argument against priesthood as a separate class of Christians beyond the disciples, perhaps it is good to offer both financial options for priests. In the end, every church must strive for the ideals of the first Church where all wealth was shared among Christians.

D. THE TACTICS FOR ACHIEVING UNITY

The strategic arguments for overcoming the barriers against the unification of the Christian churches presented above must be

accompanied by viable tactics for the execution of such arguments. These tactics should focus on bringing the diverse collection of churches together, making them listen and understand, and helping them receive the power of the Spirit to take the course towards unity. Looking at the dynamics of how the churches are divided, a potentially effective core tactic is to engage the problem on all fronts in order to achieve a level of momentum to overcome the deceptions of Satan, the apathy of spiritual weakness, and the stubbornness of spiritual immaturity. An engagement front exists between every two churches with a perceived irreconcilable difference in theology and practice. Thus, there are thousands of fronts to apply force. Further, these fronts are divided into local engagements and institutional engagements. In local engagements, the emphasis is on personal contact between members of one Christian church and another. In institutional engagements, the emphasis is on the formal meeting of leaders of Christian denominations to address major theological and practice-based differences from the top down. It must continuously be made clear that the purpose of all these levels of church engagement is not to make compromises but to move all the churches towards a common center of truth. Thus, making each church recognize that it may not be at the center of truth is the first great battle. How close a church is to the center will be revealed through open engagements, but this fact is of no importance once all the churches have been delivered to the center. The recognition of this center where the Word is understood and embraced makes this tactic of pushing from all sides feasible. Otherwise, random engagements between churches, with varying compromises, may actually move groups of churches away from the vision of the true Body of Christ.

The tactics for local engagements between churches should first be to fight against personal prejudices that may in many cases actually dwarf real theological and practice-based differences. These prejudices may often be linked to racial and cultural differences. The heart of such prejudices seems to be a belief that, just because another group sings differently, prays differently, or praises differently, they cannot be good Christians. These are superficial assessments that may lead one towards the deceptions of Satan.

Indeed, certain cultural differences may reflect the general spiritual maturity of a group of Christians. However, we must get to know the nature of other spirits before any claims can be made. Besides, it is spiritual purity that leads to faith, which makes a true Christian. Differences in spiritual maturity indicate that one church has the opportunity to help another church grow at its own pace. Getting to know and loving members of other churches embody the heart of local engagement. Through this love, we can learn to appreciate differences that do not matter and work on differences that truly divide the churches but not the people. As a people, Christians must recognize themselves as one family no matter the disagreements. From this position of mutual love, but refusal to give up on truth, perhaps a series of grass-root movements might form to drive the institutions that the churches belong to. All this can begin with one church reaching out in love to another with an invitation to visit. The first visit may not have to be combined worship but simply fellowship that leads to discussion.

The tactics for institutional engagements must begin at the foundation. The focus of such engagements is to overcome the fear, insecurity, and misalignment of faith that prevent an established church institution from considering growth and changes associated with growth. Immaturity feeds itself, in that the fundamental foundation of a church often hinders growth if that definition of faith is misaligned. True faith should be directed at the Lord. However, most churches also direct faith at their understanding of the Lord. Through the centuries, the survival of churches often depended on the proclamation that they have the complete truth. What immature people would want to join a church that proclaims that it is still on a journey towards understanding God's will? This belief has often grown to dominate all sectors of a church institution to even hinder the pursuits of the most devoted Christian scholars. These foundations are so set in most denominations that their change could threaten the cohesion of church institutions.

The Catholic Church, with the greatest degree of cohesion, fights to preserve its foundation with the greatest fervor. The Protestant churches' fight against change through the years has led to even more denominations and greater division. Yet, each new denomination

typically proclaims that it is the end state of spiritual growth. In order for unity to be feasible, the leaders of all the churches must gather and destroy this immutable aspect of church foundation. The insecurity that another church might be closer to the truth can be resolved by the fact that no church is at the center of truth. The center of truth is real and absolute, though unrealized or ignored. The fear that another church might win over members can be alleviated by all the denominations breaking their proclamation simultaneously. At that moment, Christian leaders and scholars across the world can then be free to discuss openly about what is the center of truth for Christians and to design a new unified church organization around that center. The strategic arguments presented earlier are meant to support the discovery of the center by examining current differences. This momentum will in its course separate the true Christian leaders from those trapped by their position, for a true Christian will sacrifice his authority, which does not belong to him, for the growth and unity of the Church. Surely the Lord will use displaced Christian leaders in more powerful, though perhaps not more glamorous, ways. In this phase of growth and instability, the Church must rest upon the spiritually mature, strong, and faithful. Their faith must wipe away the doubts of the weak. Their maturity must guide the growth and understanding of the stubborn. Their strength must oppose the continuous advances of the armies of darkness.

The campaign to rescue the Church is completed when a single Church united in Christ emerges not from the ashes of the many diverse churches, but from the dedicated efforts of all the churches in battling evil and immaturity. Though absolute success may not come until the arrival of our Lord Jesus, every step that can be taken towards unity strengthens the churches against the days of darkness that are to come. We start seeing these steps when Christians begin to refer to themselves as merely Christians and not as Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Pentecostals, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, etc. Naturally, every individual church could and should have a unique flavor. However, that flavor should not prohibit a church from simply identifying itself as a Christian church with the description of its flavor in subtitles. Without first

finding the center of truth, this unity will present an increased opportunity for false churches preaching the deceptions of Satan to sneak into the Christian realm. Thus, until full unity is achieved and false churches are separated, Christian churches must still individually pronounce their foundation of faith clearly.

The one thing that must be avoided in this campaign to unify the churches is the formation of additional denominations. A natural result of engagement is that the members of a church may suddenly face variations in maturity and understanding. Though such maturity should not be sacrificed, we must fight the desire to abandon the less mature in frustration. For those who could not understand where their church is suddenly heading, please continue to love all members of your congregation. If the pace of change must be slowed so that the church will not divide, perhaps it should be slowed. With prayer and dedication the Church shall by the grace of God weather the hard testing ahead.

E. SPECIFIC ISSUES HINDERING THE FORMATION OF A COMMON BIBLE

The single debate that prevents the adoption of a common Bible throughout the Christian realm is over the acceptance of the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha, which means "hidden away" in Greek, represents a collection of Hebrew writings rejected by the Jewish rabbinical authorities in assembling the Hebrew Old Testament. Though the Hebrew records of such texts were lost, these writings were nevertheless passed down through the Septuagint, a Greek translation of Hebrew Old Testament books, originally used by the Jews of Alexandria, Egypt. However, the Septuagint was also used by the Christians of the early centuries to teach the Old Testament. Since then, the Catholic Church has used official papal authority to debate and select a portion of the Apocryphal books to be combined with the Hebrew Old Testament to form the Catholic Old Testament. The Orthodox churches, which are less unified than the Catholics, use several versions of the Old Testament, some of which contain Apocryphal books.

The Protestant churches, based on Martin Luther's teachings, insist that the Hebrew Old Testament is the correct version of the Old Testament and that the Apocryphal books should be set aside from the Holy Bible as inspirational reading. As discussed earlier, this argument has merit in that the Old Testament was assembled while the Jews were still God's only people, meaning God's guidance of their leaders in passing down His words must be respected. However, the Catholic Old Testament was developed before the Christian churches officially broke apart. In that period, the authority of the Christian community to assemble the New Testament and restructure the Old Testament must also be recognized. Thus, the existing Protestant argument is perhaps inadequate to overturn the previous decisions of the Church. Instead, the enclosure of the Apocryphal books must be addressed book by book along the path of the old Catholic scholars to determine whether, with current spiritual understanding, any of the books are fake (not what they proclaim to be) or are not directly guided by God.

The Jewish rabbinical authorities made the general argument that books written too far past the time of the prophets should not be incorporated into the official Old Testament because the guidance of God in such writings is questionable. Else, their Old Testament would be continuously expanded with new books to this day. The incorporation of new wisdom and interpretations must be done to the Talmud, the nature of which will be discussed later. Ironically, this argument has a unique Christian appeal because it would make sense to consider that God may have left His people to their own means for a period of time to see if they would follow the prophets before sending Jesus, their Messiah, to them. If men of God continued to emerge and the people did not totally drift away from God, then one might ask why Jesus needed to come at that time to try to save the Jews. Though this argument also has merit, we shall proceed to examine each Apocryphal book of the Catholic Bible. The other Apocryphal books (I Esdras, III + IV Maccabees, Odes, Wisdom of Solomon, Letter of Jeremiah, Susanna, and Bel and the Snake) will not be addressed at this point because they present less of an issue towards unifying the Bible.

Apocryphal Books of the Catholic Bible

The Book of Tobit

Tobit is believed to be a historical book written in the second century BC about the heroic figure Tobit, a wealthy and devout Israelite taken captive to Nineveh in 721 BC. However, the authorship and origin of Tobit is unknown. There are two major concerns with the contents of Tobit that present good arguments for not including the book in the Old Testament. First, this book discusses the appearance of the Archangel Raphael, a figure which is not discussed anywhere else in scripture. Raphael proclaimed himself to be one of the seven angels who entered and served before the Glory of the Lord. This is not true, for in 721 BC there were twelve archangels who stood before the Lord, including Satan. Five archangels did not fall from Heaven until their defeat in the war of angels that occurred with the birth of Jesus.

The second concern is the appearance of the demon Asmodeus, whom Raphael chased to upper Egypt and bound up. As with the fallen archangels discussed above, the term "demon" did not come into use until the angels fell from Heaven and became demons on earth after the birth of Jesus. Before then there were evil spirits, but they answered to God in Heaven and obeyed God with varying dedication. These two concerns combine to create a suspicion that the Book of Tobit was either written or significantly altered in a period after the coming of Jesus and before its official entry into the canons of the organized church.

Book of Judith

Judith is another historical book of unknown authorship. The book centers on the exploits of a Jewish woman, Judith, in delivering victory over the Assyrians to her people around the second to first century BC. The concern about the merit of this book for inclusion in the Old Testament is the way Judith's victory was achieved. Judith used deception to murder the Assyrian general Holofernes and then thanked God intensely for her success. There was, however, no mention of any direction from God which compelled Judith to conduct murder. The reason why we must consider her action to

be murder is because Holofernes' life was taken by surprise and trickery. Thus, his spirit was denied any opportunity to review his life and repent. In other parts of the Old Testament, the Jewish people could only be killed in executions upon the clear breaking of God's laws, and the people of other cultures were often killed after witnessing the hand of God in bringing victory to His people. God typically made His will known, and nowhere else has God commanded someone to sneak up on a person and take his life by surprise. Also, nowhere in the Bible has God commanded a woman to kill. Given this understanding, a strong argument can be made that more evidence is needed to show whether Judith's actions were truly guided by the Lord before this book is accepted into the Old Testament. Though the Lord may permit certain events to reach success, such permission should not always be assumed to be of His will or His guidance. Thus, the Book of Judith may simply reflect a people drifting away from the will of God while believing that they are with God. This was exactly the problem with the Pharisees at the time of Jesus.

Book of I Maccabees

This book represents one account of the Jewish struggle against the Seleucid kings in the second century Be. Believed to have been written in about 100 BC, its author is also unknown. This book is of interest in that it records the first true persecution of the Jewish people. The Jews had often been defeated and taken into bondage, but in no other time have they been forbidden to practice their religion. As with the Book of Judith, one must question whether the success of the Jewish resistance led by the family of Mattathias was truly guided by the Lord. This concern is brought to light in chapter five where it was discussed that the Jewish resistance captured many cities, killed all the males, plundered their riches, and then burned the cities down. In the Old Testament, God directed whole nations to be killed, even the women and children. However, God also directed that their riches be destroyed along with the people. In this manner the people of God were not fighting for greed. Individuals and even kings have been punished by God for plundering. If God wanted the

Jews to prosper, they need not plunder from enemy cities. This concern is increased by the simple fact that there was no mention in the book of Jewish forces being led by prophets. Throughout the period of the judges and the early kings, the Jewish forces had always been guided by prophets when entering into conflict. If the slaughtering of the enemy, after victory has already been achieved, was not ordered by God because of the enemies' spiritual corruption, then such a merciless action would be a condemnation of the Jewish people's heart in that period. God did not order such an action perhaps because the Jewish people grew distant from Him. Their lack of spiritual purity would then result in corruption if they were to slaughter the captured. Even the pagan conquerors of that period rarely committed such acts. If this book is but a historical text and does not present the work of God, then it must be read with unique understanding. Its inclusion in the Old Testament may not be appropriate.

Book of II Maccabees

This book provides a separate account of the Jewish struggle in the second century BC. However, it supports the concerns identified in I Maccabees with new insights. The insights come in the form of revealing how the Jews were persecuted in that period. The Jews were forced to abandon their customs and laws. The temple of Jerusalem was defiled by pagan Greek rituals. This persecution was both a test of the Jewish people's faith and their spiritual maturity. Since the Jewish people believed that the laws must be obeyed, faith would demand the complete martyrdom of the Jewish nation. Clearly, most Jews chose life over the obedience of laws. However, the form of persecution also showed how immature the Jews were about their laws. The oppressors apparently did not force the Jews to break laws, such as the Ten Commandments, that would damage even the mature spirit. The Jews were not forced to place sacrifices on pagan altars like the first century Christians were forced to do. It was revealed that Jews were primarily martyred for adhering to their dietary restrictions. The Old Testament laws against eating certain foods did not demand death but a simple penitence even for intentional violators, for such laws were only

meant to shape the spirit. Yet, numerous Jews chose death over eating pork under persecution. Thus, the Book of II Maccabees should not be read as an example of faith, but as a revelation into how the Jews became a people obsessed with laws but blind to the meaning behind them. Further, it showed that the majority of the people were nevertheless weak in faith under persecution, despite their obsession with laws. These people, who became the Pharisees, were the ones whom Jesus denounced.

Also of concern in II Maccabees is the return of the prophet Jeremiah to present the hero, Judas, a sword and victory over Nicanor. This marked the first and only Biblical reference of the Lord's using a man destined for a place of rest in Heaven to do the work of angels back down on earth. This is very different from Jesus' going to the mountain and being accompanied by Moses and Elijah. There, they were not necessarily present on earth influencing the course of human events. For those men of God in Heaven, Revelation reveals that they are placed in a state of rest, awaiting the first resurrection to occur with the return of Jesus. Even if they can see and hear the prayers of people on earth and speak on our behalf, the Lord's permission for them to leave their rest and return to the world of man seems to contradict Biblical teachings.

The Book of Sirach

This book contains the wisdom writings of a Hebrew scholar in Jerusalem around 200 Be. At first glance, Sirach wrote about reasonable, spiritual, and worldly wisdom in conformity with the Old Testament. However, reading the Old Testament with the help of Jesus reveals that all the laws and teachings possess a deeper meaning and purpose that lead people to the Word. Unlike the other books of the Old Testament, areas of thought in Sirach hinder the embracement of the Word. First, Sirach teaches an absolute fear of God that is far more than just fearing God's punishment when one has sinned. If practiced to the extent that Sirach suggests, fear will prevent the establishment of a personal relationship with the Lord.

On top of that fear, this book then goes on to teach that we should not seek to understand things which are too sublime, beyond our strength to find, and beyond human understanding. This is the antithesis of Christian teachings, for Jesus taught us to grow continuously in our understanding of God's plan and will for us. What is beyond human capacity to find is within the Holy Spirit's capacity to give. What is beyond human capacity to understand is within the Word's capacity to explain. However, we must first want to find and understand. Sirach also urges one to avoid dangerous things that can build spiritual strength. Women perceived of as being spiritually wild, including those who sing and exhibit strange behaviors, should be avoided even though they may not have sinned in their actions. New friends are not to be trusted as old friends until the passage of time, even though one's spirit may see a brother in Christ upon first encounter.

Even more damaging is the teaching that sinners should be avoided as a lamb would a wolf. If God had no love for sinners, then the Israelites would have been destroyed in the desert before reaching the promised land, and Jesus would not have walked among the prostitutes and tax collectors. How can anyone be a Christian if he would not befriend and rescue sinners? The last teaching of concern in Sirach is glorifying the servants of God throughout the ages. Though the heroes of the past like Moses and David should be respected, these men of the past should not be worshiped as gods. When Sirach proclaimed that Noah was found just and perfect, he robbed Jesus of His position. No man can be just, for no man can fully understand the ways of God. No man can be perfect, for only the precious Son of God is perfect. After reviewing these many concerns, the Book of Sirach should perhaps be treated as a secular body of writing which reveals the problematic aspects of Jewish beliefs shortly before the coming of Jesus.

The Book of Baruch

This book, considered as prophetic, is believed to have been developed by a secretary of the prophet Jeremiah named Baruch. The primary emphasis of this text is, however, not on prophecies, but on providing encouragement and guidance for the Jews in

Babylon. In fact, there may be some concern, because this text offers a prayer for the longevity of Nebuchadnezzar, the benevolent Babylonian king whom the Jews had become comfortable serving. The primary concern over the validity of this book lies in a proclaimed letter from Jeremiah that completes the volume. In the letter, Jeremiah teaches the people to avoid idolatry in Babylon. His argument against idolatry is problematic, and one must question whether it can be from a true prophet of the Lord like Jeremiah. The argument centers on the observation that idols do not respond to the people. The priests reused the various offerings sacrificed to it. The people were not helped by it nor did idols exhibit any real power over the people. This argument is incredibly dangerous for it subtly avoids the true reason why we should remain faithful to God. Our faith in God should be built around the understanding of God as the embodiment of goodness whose presence cannot be captured by objects nor be described by words. We call Him simply "I Am" and we recognize His presence everywhere and in our spirits. God has power over all things, for all things belong to Him. An idol does not have power unless God permits it. Yet, sometimes God permits Satan to trick us, to test our faith. In all cases, the trickery is obvious to the spiritually mature. If a statue jumps to life, we know it is not God, for we know the greatness of God and have a personal relationship with Him. If we witness changes in response to other people's prayers offered to idols, we know it must be the acts of Satan, for no loyal angel will respond unless one prays directly to God.

In a time when the Jews were immature, God may have indeed forbidden all dark forces to act in response to idolatry. However, in this period of increasing spiritual demands, we may see all forms of dark forces at work. In this period, such a minimal argument against idolatry can do more harm than good. Since the books of the Bible represent the living word of God as guidance for all times, we must question whether the Book of Baruch was guided by God. Since it also proclaims a letter from Jeremiah, we must further question whether the book is a deception. The long-term impact of Baruch's teachings about idolatry may be a gradual growth of subtle idolatry within the Church. Instead of using statues of saints to

inspire dedication to God, some Christians might start praying to the statues. Under Baruch's argument, if such prayers are answered, then praying to a statue is equivalent to praying to God. Yet, mature Christians should recognize that the forces answering such prayers cannot be from God, and that idolatry has penetrated the Church.

F. A SPECIFIC PLAN FOR RESCUING THE MORMONS

The Mormon Church was established in 1823 by Joseph Smith who proclaimed that Moroni, the resurrected son of Mormon, appeared to him and revealed a collection of plates with writings of an unknown language. Smith then claimed that God empowered him to translate the plates, which revealed the history of a lost tribe of Israel in the Americas as condensed by the ancient prophet Mormon and his son. The centerpiece of this history which started with Nephi, whom God brought from Jerusalem to the Americas, is the guidance of Jesus and the appearance of Jesus soon after His resurrection two thousand years ago.

Joseph Smith then proclaimed that he was charged by God to be a prophet for reviving Christianity with this revelation. The true church was then to be a rebirth of the Mormon church that was lost long ago. Conveniently, the plates had to be taken back by God, and only a dozen witnesses testified that they saw the plates. Even more convenient, the interpretation that Smith received was not necessarily complete. More revelations may come in the future to the leaders of the Mormon Church, alternatively called the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints. All this permit the Book of Mormon to exist without historical documentation before 1823 and be as mutable as the leaders see fit. Indeed, such an intangible foundation is difficult to confront. Yet, if the foundation is defeated, then the entire portion of Mormon beliefs that stems from the Book of Mormon will crumble. Perhaps the Mormon Church could then repent and become simply a Christian church on the true path.

The one vulnerability of the Book of Mormon is that it must be in agreement with the Holy Bible, which the Mormons also proclaim as coming from God. Since the Holy Bible consists of unabridged books by the original authors with historical documentation going back to the second and third centuries, any argument about accuracy must be in its favor. Further, since a comprehensive understanding of the Lord's will can be acquired from the Holy Bible, the Book of Mormon must also reveal that understanding. From this position, a Christian embracing the Word could then read the Book of Mormon and identify all areas of disagreement with the Holy Bible. If such disagreements reflect a lack of scriptural and historical understanding stemming from the state of Christianity in the 1800's, we must question whether the Book of Mormon was fabricated by Smith and his colleagues. If such disagreements reflect an underlying nineteenth century worldly motivation, our position is further justified.

Since the Book of Mormon is ever changing, we will at this point use a 1996 edition provided to me by a pair of Mormon missionaries. Reading through it, a long list of disagreements with the Holy Bible can easily be identified as shown. The rationales for these disagreements are presented as corrections for the Mormon leaders if they so choose to modify the book again to deceive the spiritually confused. In this case, the book may have to be totally rewritten. Yet, no matter how much it is rewritten, we Christians will expose it as a deception. The simple fact is that what is not guided by the hand of God cannot be true. It would be much wiser for the Mormon leaders to abandon this false text that has trapped them for generations.

By Smith's proclamation, the Book of Mormon contains primarily Mormon's translation and abridgement of the Plates of Nephi. The small plates were described as pertaining to spiritual matters and were directly translated by Mormon and then Smith into the books of First Nephi, Second Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jaron, and Omni. Though supposed to have been written by different authors, the translations provide a clever excuse for why all the books are written in a single style. After these books comes a book that presents some of

Mormon's commentaries. This is followed by the abridgement of the large plates, which discusses historical matters. The books of Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, Third Nephi, Fourth Nephi, and Mormon are all abridged. After these is the Book of Ether, which talks about a group that arrived in the Americas during the Tower of Babel period before the Jews officially became a people. This conveniently attempts to justify why archeological evidence revealed Native American cultures going back thousands of years. Nevertheless, the ability of ancient people to reach the Americas from the coast of Africa cannot be totally ruled out. The Book of Mormon concludes with the Book of Moroni, which addresses the complete corruption of the people of Nephi after 421 AD.

After identifying the corrections in these books, it is apparent that many of these corrections are simply a reflection of Smith's poor knowledge of Biblical meaning carried through in his writings. What is perhaps more alarming are those corrections that expose a hidden motive to justify the Mormon migration west and their taking of Native American land. The Book of Mormon associates the appearance of Native Americans and all dark-skinned people with the punishment of sin and continuously provides God given proclamation that they will be destroyed by the white man. Being also practical, Smith permitted coexistence with the Native Americans as long as they accept their historical position and submit to the authority of his church. To ensure that his church maintained its solidarity in the Christian world, Smith also continuously wrote that all the other Christian churches, especially the Catholics, are abominations unto God. This immediately placed the Mormon Church in opposition to the rest of Christianity. Either we are damned or they are damned. Yet, we should try to rescue them. This ideological creation of Smith was extremely effective in recruiting and keeping followers. Those followers endured tremendous hardship to reach the territory of Utah where the massive Mormon Church is headquartered today.

The exposing of the Book of Mormon, which we have initiated below, will yield very uncertain reactions among the Mormons. Their leaders will want to bury this truth, so the truth must be widely disseminated among the Mormon ranks. Those who realize that they have followed a false prophet may descend into madness, go into

denial, or even try to physically harm other Christians. What is important is that the true Word of the Holy Bible has also been implanted in some Mormons. We in the rest of the Christian realm can help the truth to surface, and the Word will drive away the madness with forgiveness, end the denial with the presence of the Lord, and calm the hostilities with love. First, we must crush the works of a false prophet with the power of the Word.

Exposing the Incorrectness of the Book of Mormon

First Book of Nephi

4: 12 *"And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me again: Slay him, for the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands."*

CORRECTION: The Lord in the days of the Old Testament often directed His people to destroy other cultures that had fallen into corruption. However, in dealing with individuals among His own people, He always directed punishment in accordance with His- laws. Thus, the above statement, which provides no explanation of any laws being broken, is in contradiction to the Lord's way of justice and can be considered as murder.

9:3-4 *"Nevertheless, I have received a commandment of the Lord that I should make these plates, for the special purpose that there should be an account engraved of the ministry of my people. Upon the other plates should be engraved an account of the reign of the kings, and the wars and contentions of my people."*

CORRECTION: In Jewish history, many families have left their tribes for foreign lands. They either lost their Jewish heritage or retained their identity as belonging to one of the twelve true tribes of Israel. All of the Lord's prophecies in the Old Testament pertain to these twelve tribes and oppose the idea of a thirteenth tribe or the formation of a whole new people.

10:4 *"Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews even a Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior of the World."*

CORRECTION: Jesus' role as savior of the world was not fully revealed until His arrival. All the prophets in the Old Testament focused on the coming of a perfect king for Israel. Thus, the above statement would claim that Nephi was greater than all other prophets and that Jesus' plan to minister first to the Jews is not true.

10:12 *"Yea, even my father spake much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the house of Israel, that they should be compared like unto an olive-tree, whose branches should be broken off and should be scattered upon all the face of the earth."*

CORRECTION: Other references to olive trees in the Bible all support the interpretation that they symbolized the gentiles not the Jews. The Jews are symbolized as the vineyard.

11:18 *"And he said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh."*

CORRECTION: Jesus' position as the Son of God was also intended as a hidden truth so as not to hinder the Jews' recognition of Him as Lord based upon His teachings. The demons were specifically instructed not to reveal this fact.

11:34 *"And after he was slain I saw the multitudes of the earth, that they were gathered together to fight against the apostles of the Lamb; for thus were the twelve called by the angel of the Lord."*

CORRECTION: The world did not gather to fight the apostles. Instead, Christianity only faced brief periods of persecution to strengthen the disciples and condemn those who belong to the world. Overall, Christianity was allowed to spread like wildfire across Rome.

11:36 *"And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb."*

CORRECTION: Jesus specifically said that He came to save and not to punish. His love is perfect even for those who reject Him. They can be forgiven.

12:7 *"And I also saw and bear record that the Holy Ghost fell upon twelve others."*

CORRECTION: The Bible proclaims that there is one Church united in Christ. Thus, the Lord would not select a separate set of apostles to form a second and very separated Church.

13:5 *"Behold the formation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity."*

CORRECTION: In our study of Christian history, we have shown that tough Christians have made many mistakes; the Church stemming from Rome has always been under the Lord's guidance and in the Lord's plan. Condemning all or part of the Church from Rome would be in opposition to the testimony that history has presented.

13:12 *"And [looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of many brethren by the many waters; and [beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto seed of many brethren, who were in the promised land."*

CORRECTION: While it is nice for Joseph Smith to establish his position under the pretense of holy writings, this coming of a prophet among the gentiles is not supported by any other Biblical writings. Thus, one must again assume that either the main branch of Judaism and Christianity has all been misled by the Lord or the Book of Mormon is false.

13:30 *"God will not suffer that the Gentiles will utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed, which are among thy brethren. Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall destroy the seed of thy brethren."*

CORRECTION: Throughout Jewish history God has used corrupted foreign nations to punish His chosen people. Then, He would later punish and even destroy those foreign nations, for He often uses the evil and casts it out. If the gentiles did destroy God's people, then their punishment would be severe. Thus, the destruction of the American Indians cannot be justified in this manner.

13:35 *"For behold, saith the Lamb: [will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which [shall minister unto them, ... these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb."*

CORRECTION: Jesus told His disciples in Jerusalem that He had revealed to them everything. The truth in the New Testament is complete. The above statement would lead us to believe that Jesus lied and that certain truths, such as

the existence of a second church and a second set of teachings, are kept secret.

14:10 *"Whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; ... she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. ... I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, its numbers were few."*

CORRECTION: In this one statement, the entire Christian church that grew from Rome under Peter and Paul is rejected as an abomination. The centuries of God's work are rejected in favor of a church that failed in the Americas but was revived by Joseph Smith. This cannot be.

14:20 *"Behold one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb... he shall also write concerning the end of the world ... they are written in the book which thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jews; ... And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was John."*

CORRECTION: Despite the numerous attacks on the main branch of Christianity in the Book of Mormon, the above statement affirms the validity of the New Testament Book of Revelation. This is even with the fact that Revelation confirms the existence of only twelve tribes for Israel, thus rejecting all others who claim to be of God's chosen people.

16:10 *"And it came to pass that as my father arose in the morning, and went forth to the tent door, to his great astonishment he beheld upon the ground a round ball of curious workmanship; and it was of fine brass. And within the ball were two spindles; and one pointed the way whither we should go into the wilderness."*

CORRECTION: God's instruments are typically presented by angels or God Himself with clear instructions for their use. They are not found at the doorstep.

16:31 *"And it came to pass that I did slay wild beasts, insomuch that I did obtain food for our families. ... And so great were the blessing of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children. "*

CORRECTION: Before the coming of Jesus, the people of Nephi were still Jews and had to live by Jewish laws, which prohibit the eating of wild beasts and raw meat.

18:25 *"And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journey in the wilderness, that there were beasts in forests of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, ..."*

CORRECTION: Archeology has shown that the horse was not indigenous to the Americas. Instead, it was brought over by the Spaniards in the 1500's.

21:6 *"And he said: It is a light thing that thou shouldst be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give thee for light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the ends of the earth."*

CORRECTION: If the people of Nephi were the preserved of Israel, then the continuation of the main body of Israel, the rest of the tribes, had no justification. Yet the people of Nephi were eventually destroyed while Israel has been restored by the nations of the world.

Second Book of Nephi

2: 10 *"But behold, when the time cometh that they shall dwindle in unbelief, after they have received so great blessings from the hand of the Lord ... they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer and their God, ... Yea he will bring other nations unto them, and he will give unto them power, and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten."*

CORRECTION: Through Jewish history, never has there been a failure as described, where the line of man was completely cut off with no worthy descendants. God has always selected the best spirits and grown them. The complete fall of Nephi's descendants implies that God's plan of growing His people was not fulfilled or that Nephi's people were never God's people.

2:21 *"For he gave commandment that all men must repent; for he showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents."*

CORRECTION: In the Old Testament, God has already revealed that He shall no longer punish sons for the sins of their fathers. Thus, the transgressions of our parents do not cause us to be lost, but the sins that dwell in us.

5:13 *"And it came to pass that we (Nephi's family) began to prosper exceedingly, and to multiply in the land."*

CORRECTION: Once the Jews were established under Moses, marriage between family members was prohibited. Thus, the people of Nephi emerged from incest and were doomed from the start.

5:21 *"Wherefore, as they (Lamanites -family and descendents of Nephi's sibilings) were white, and exceedingly fair and*

delightful, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them ... they did become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety."

CORRECTION: Through the Bible, we know that God has punished people for generations by placing them into physical hardship. However, it was never recorded that God has ever cursed the appearances of people for generations. The appearances of people were only altered to divide the people at Babel. Besides, the people of Israel, including Jesus, were far closer to the Indians in skin tone than the fair-skinned Scandinavians.

6:6 *"Thus saith the Lord God: Behold. I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders."*

CORRECTION: Historically, God has always arranged for the Jews to be captured as a people so that they could continue to exist as His people in foreign lands. Never has the Lord permitted the women to be carried away by foreign men so that the Jewish race is washed away by interbreeding.

6:12 *"And blessed are the Gentiles, they of whom the prophet has written; for behold, if it so be that they shall repent and fight not against Zion, and do not unite themselves to that great and abominable church, they shall be saved."*

CORRECTION: Christian salvation lies in recognizing Jesus as Lord, receiving the Holy Spirit, and following Jesus' teachings. Church affiliation, Catholic or non-Catholic, unto itself is not a condition of salvation or damnation. Even in a corrupt church, there could be Christians fighting for righteousness.

9:24 *"And if they will not repent and believe in his name, and be baptized in his name, and endure to the end, they must be damned - woe unto the rich, who are rich as to the things of world. - woe unto the deaf that will not hear; for they shall perish. Woe unto the blind that will not see; for they shall perish also. Woe unto the uncircumised of heart, for a knowledge of their iniquities shall smite them at the last day. Woe unto the liar, for he shall be thrust down to hell. Woe unto the murderer who deliberately killeth, for he shall die. Woe unto them who commit whoredoms, for they shall be thrust down to hell. Yea, woe unto those that worship idols, for the devil of all devils delighteth in them. And, in fine, woe unto all those who die in their sins; for they shall return to God, and behold his face, and remain in their sins."*

CORRECTION: The focus on curses above is in direct opposition to Jesus' teachings. Jesus came not to curse man but to bless man. Instead of just saying "Woe unto them," Jesus first said, "Blessed are those ..."

10:3 *"Jews, among those who are the more wicked part of the world; ... and there is no other nation on earth that would crucify their God."*

CORRECTION: The sadness concerning the Jews is not that they crucified their God but that they could not recognize their Lord and teacher when He came to them in the flesh to complete the lesson. Yet, Jesus forgave them.

10:7 *"But behold, thus saith the Lord God: When the day cometh that they shall believe in me, that I am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers that they shall be restored in the flesh, upon the earth, unto the lands of their inheritance. ... For if there be no Christ there be no God; and if there be no God we are not, for there could have been no*

creation. But there is a God, and he is Christ, and he cometh in the fullness of his own time. "

CORRECTION: This is a blasphemy. God the Father will always exist, even if there were no Son Jesus. However, there is Jesus and through Jesus the Father planned His creation. Jesus and God are united. Jesus has been given the authority of God and is called Lord. However, the Son is not the Father.

25:2 *"For I, Nephi, have not taught them many things concerning the manner of the Jews; for their works were works of darkness, and their doings were doings of abominations."*

CORRECTION: By this statement, the people of Nephi were completely separated from the Jews. Therefore, they shared not in the prophecies of the Jews. Since Jesus came for the Jews and Gentiles, these people would then not be a part of God's plan.

25:13 *"Behold, they will crucify him; and after he is laid in a sepulcher for the space of three days he shall rise from the dead. "*

CORRECTION: The details of Jesus' resurrection were not even given to His apostles, and they waited for Jesus with a great deal of uncertainty.

26:29 *"He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world."*

CORRECTION: Priesthood, though abused by some, was established by the Lord from the time of Aaron. Priests are servants empowered by the Lord to shepherd the weaker

members of His flock. Often, the church will stray if the sheep are forced to shepherd themselves.

26:32 *"And again the Lord God hath commanded that men should not murder; that they should not lie; that they should not steal; they should not take the name of the Lord their God in vain; that they should not envy; that they should not contend one with another, that they should not commit whoredom; and that they should do none of these things; for whoso doeth them shall perish."*

CORRECTION: This is a variant of the Ten Commandments where the holiness of Sabbath, the avoidance of worshipping other beings of Heaven and earth, the honoring of parents, and the forbidding of adultery were not addressed. Alternatively, simple lying instead of bearing false witness, envy instead of desiring another man's possessions, and whoredom instead of specifically betraying a vow of love are incorrectly emphasized.

27:12 *"Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall be delivered; and they shall testify to truth of the book and the things therein. And there is none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were from the dead woe be unto him that rejecteth the word of God. "*

CORRECTION: Historically, God has always left the physical mark of His word with man to empower our faith. The tablets of the Ten Commandments were carried in the sacred Ark for much of Jewish history. The writings of the kings and prophets of old were passed down through the

centuries to form the Holy Bible. Never have such writings been taken away despite countless turmoil. Also, writings inspired by God have always served to support man, not to damn man.

28:6 *"Behold, hearken ye unto my precept; if they shall say there is a miracle wrought by the hand of the Lord, believe it not; for this day he is not a God of miracles; he hath done his work."*

CORRECTION: God always will be a God of miracles. However, the miracles vary depending on the maturity and spiritual needs of the people. As we start to understand the true meaning of the Word, there is less of a need for physical miracles. However, physical miracles are often still granted if Christians pray together for them. To deny miracles is to deny the power of the Holy Spirit and the wonders of the Lord. It is, however, fair to say that we must take care in letting the Holy Spirit tell us which miracles are truly from the Lord. If the Mormons cannot receive miracles, they should wonder whether they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

28:13 *"They rob the poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of fine clothing. ,;*

CORRECTION: The Lord judges by the intent and not by superficial standards. Though many churches have lost their love and compassion for the poor and helpless, other churches are built fine and wondrous because of the contributions of the poor for the love of their Lord. It is not wrong for people who have no good clothing of their own to want their shepherds to dress in splendor as a reflection of the Kingdom of the Lord to come. Would one take the oil that is for Jesus' feet and give it to the poor, and would one ban Solomon from building the Lord's temple because all the people were not in prosperity? We must love, but we must

also trust in the Lord's guidance. If fine sanctuaries and clothing hinder the salvation of the people or take away what is meant for the poor, then perhaps it is best that there be none of it. However, sometimes fine things are granted by the Lord so that we are not trapped by the world, even in our need to help others. The Lord can make all the poor rich simply with a word.

29:3 *"And because my words shall hiss forth many of the Gentiles shall say: A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bibles. ... Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bibles. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews? Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea ... Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. ... Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written. ... And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel. "*

CORRECTION: The Lord is the God of all nations, but He made a special covenant with the Jews because of their maturity in recognizing Him. Until that covenant was broken, which occurred when Jesus was crucified, the Jews were God's only chosen people. Thus, if the people of Nephite were no longer the Jews, then they were no longer God's chosen people. We do not regard the writings of all

the other religions around the world that proclaim to love God to be pure and from God. Why should we consider the writings of Nephite, assuming that it is not a fabrication, to be from God?

33:5 *"Wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written save he shall be of the spirit of the devil."*

CORRECTION: Indeed, Christians should not be angry, for we are immature and unable to comprehend the full plan of the Lord. However, we do see that the words of the Mormons are misleading people, even if they are permitted by the Lord as a testing. For this we must feel sad and pray that the people of this world will overcome such hard testing.

33:10 *"And if ye shall believe in Christ ye will believe in these words, for they are the words of Christ ... And if they are not the words of Christ, judge ye for Christ will show unto you, with power and great glory, that they are his words."*

CORRECTION: There are many who claim that they have the words of Christ, but not all are true. The Book of Mormon, which effectively came from one source, is to be judged with the Holy Spirit and the understanding acquired through the words of the New Testament. If these new words, as we have shown, do not fit into the old words, then they cannot be from Christ no matter how strong the proclamation.

Book of Jacob

1:7 *"Wherefore we labored diligently among our people, that we might persuade them to come unto Christ, ... that all men would believe in Christ, and view his death, and suffer his cross and bear the shame of the world; wherefore I, Jacob, take it upon me to fulfill the commandment of my brother Nephi."*

CORRECTION: Through our discussions, we have shown that Christ died on the cross so that a new covenant could be made. Through that covenant, all mankind can be saved from their sins and rescued from the grasp of evil. Thus, Christ died for our sins, and Christ took away our sins. However, our sins do not actually become Christ's sins, even as they are received by Him. Rather, our sins are simply forgiven, for God told us that if an evil man truly turns good then all that he has done in the past is of no consequence. Christ is the only way to the Father and goodness. Once we belong to Christ, our past sins are of no consequence for the Father's grace is given freely in love. Thus, the bearing of the shame of the world reflects a traditional misunderstanding. The judgment of our sins is waived without a price, because Christ has created a new relation / covenant with God in which the Father reaches into us without requiring us to reach Him. If a Christian does not accept the Holy Spirit, his mental belief in Christ cannot help him because sins can only be forgiven if the evil they reflect is removed, and not because God must punish someone for actions that He has permitted.

1:15 *"The people of Nephi... began to grow hard in their hearts, and indulge themselves somewhat in wicked practices, such as unto David of old desiring many wives and concubines, ... hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none."*

CORRECTION: The Lord increases the requirements upon us as we mature. The concept of monogamy was presented by Jesus after He brought us to maturity. Until then, David's many wives were accepted by the Lord. To call David wicked is to deny the ways of the Lord.

3:9 *"Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you, which is the word of God, that ye revile no more against them because*

of the darkness of their skins; neither shall ye revile against them because of their filthiness; but ye shall remember your own filthiness, and remember that their filthiness came because of their fathers."

CORRECTION: By medical standards, the gentiles, governed by the legacy culture of the European Dark Ages, were probably filthier than the Native Americans. Native Americans, who felt less shameful about their bodies, may have bathed more often, and they even cleansed their internal systems through sweat lodges and other devices.

4:6 *"We truly can command in the name of Jesus and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea."*

CORRECTION: Such powers, though easily applied by Jesus, were never achieved by the apostles, for their faith was less than that of a mustard seed. It is hard to believe that the people of Nephi were that much stronger in faith than Peter.

5:63 *"I (the Lord) shall prune my vineyard. Graft in the branches; begin at the last that they may be first, and that the first may be last. "*

CORRECTION: The vineyard refers to the Jews and not the people of Nephi. The vineyard is punished and the focus then shifts to the olive trees. Thus, the last shall be among the olive trees.

Book of Enos

1:8 *"And he (the Lord) said unto me (Enos son of Nephi): Because of thy faith in Christ, whom thou hast never before heard nor seen. And many years pass away before he shall manifest himself in the flesh."*

CORRECTION: Christ is the Word. If the Word has not yet been given to man, what does faith in Christ really mean? Such faith does not bring salvation or spiritual maturation, for the new covenant has not yet been made.

1:20 *"They (the Lamanites) were led by their evil nature (once again) that they became wild, and ferocious, and a blood-thirsty people, full of idolatry and filthiness; feeding upon beasts of prey; dwelling in tents, and wandering about in the wilderness with a short skin girdle about their loins and their heads shaven; and their skill was in the bow, and in cimeter, and the ax. And many of them did eat nothing save it was raw meat."*

CORRECTION: One must separate cultural differences from those characteristics that are in opposition to Christian teachings, else one is simply prejudicial. The only thing that Christianity opposes in the above statement is idolatry. Also, Christians are taught to mature beyond their "blood-thirstiness." However, as Christians, it matters not how people dress, live, and eat as long as the dress is distinguishable between men and women, and the dwelling and food are not offered to foreign gods.

1:26 *"I must preach and prophesy unto this people, and declare the word according to the truth which is in Christ."*

CORRECTION: Christ came to deliver the truth. If the truth had been delivered prior to Christ's arrival, a major part of Christ's mission and God's plan has been altered.

Book of Jarom

1:4 *"And as many as are not stiffnecked and have faith, have communion with the Holy Spirit, which maketh manifest unto the children of men, according to their faith." (Jarom son of Enos)*

CORRECTION: God's plan is completely distorted if the Holy Spirit was delivered to the people prior to the completion of Christ's mission with man.

Book of Omni

1:15 *"Behold, it came to pass that Mosiah discovered that the people of Zarahemla came out from Jerusalem at the time that Zedekiah, king of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon. And they journeyed in the wilderness, and were brought by the hand of the Lord across the great waters." (Amaleki was the great grandson of Omni who was the son of Jarom.)*

CORRECTION: Anthropology has shown that Native Americans are genetically of Asian decent and arrived in the Americas long before this first group of people from Jerusalem did. Whether the Jews or the Egyptians could have traveled across the ocean to introduce their cultures to the Native Americans is a matter of much speculation. Even if some Jews did arrive in Central America around 700 BC, they would only have been contributing to a rapidly growing Native American civilization.

Words of Mormon

1:2 *"And it is many hundred years after the coming of Christ that I deliver these records (abridged history from Large Plates [Book of Mosiah through Fourth Nephi] with un-abridged ministry from Small Plates [Book of Nephi through Mormon] with a few words by Mormon) in the hands of my son (Moroni)"*

CORRECTION: At this point, when the people of Nephi were approaching complete failure, Christianity spread across Europe in strength until Rome itself became a Christian empire. The Holy Bible was established and has been passed to us continuously generation after generation.

Book of Mosiah

3:8 *"And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning, and his mother shall be called Mary."*

CORRECTION: Jesus cannot be the Father of Heaven or the Creator. Such a comment is a denial of God the true Father.

5:15 *"... toot Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, ... And because he said unto them toot Christ was the God, the Father of all things, and said toot he should take upon him the image of man."*

CORRECTION: If Christ is God the Father, then how could Christ pray to the Father and how could the Father answer Him while He was on earth? God is not schizophrenic!

13:27 *"And now ye have said toot salvation cometh by the law of Moses. I say unto you toot it is expedient toot ye should keep the law of Moses as yet; but I say unto you toot the time shall come when it shall no more be expedient to keep the law of Moses."*

CORRECTION: Jesus taught us through the Bible that the Commandments of Moses shall stand for all times, and that being able to achieve acceptance by the Father through the first covenant is better, as the old wine is better than the new.

18:16 *"And they were called the church of God, of the church of Christ, ... even one priest to every fifty to their number did he ordain ... And the priests were not to depend upon the people for their support."*

CORRECTION: Jesus taught us that those who are dedicated to the Lord's work deserve the people's support - working oxen should be fed.

18:27 *"People of the church should impart of their substance, every one according to that which he had; if he has more abundantly he should impart more abundantly; and of him that had but little, but little should be required; and to him that had not should be given."*

CORRECTION: Christians should give out of free will, not requirements. Though the rich out of love should consider giving all that they do not need, the poor who gives everything, even when he has the need, is praised for his faith in the Lord. To give to the Lord does not mean that one should then not receive help from other Christians.

25:22 *"Notwithstanding there being many churches they were all one church, ... in all the churches except it were repentance and faith in God ... And the Lord did pour out his Spirit upon them. "*

CORRECTION: If these churches were indeed one, then they would also have been one with the true Christian Church that started in Jerusalem.

26:22 *"For behold, this is my church; whosoever is baptized shall be baptized unto repentance... For it is I that taketh upon me the sins of the world."*

CORRECTION: Once again, this concept that sin is transferred is an archaic Christian concept based on a misinterpretation of Peter's statement that Jesus carried our sins to God.

29:32 *"But I desire that this land be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike. "*

CORRECTION: Liberty is an enlightenment, not a Christian concept. The spirit of a Christian is always free. The body of a Christian belongs to the state, which the Lord has prepared for him. A Christian has no rights or privileges, but the gift of freedom and peace that is sometimes granted by the Lord.

Book of Alma

1:32 *"For those who did not belong to their church did indulge themselves in sorceries, and in idolatry or idleness, and in babblings, and in envyings and strife; wearing costly apparel; being lifted up in the pride of their own eyes; persecuting; lying, thieving, robbing, committing whoredoms, and murdering, and all manner of wickedness; nevertheless, the law was out in force upon those who did transgress."*

CORRECTION: Christians, as instructed by Paul, are not governed by laws. Also, if the term "babblings" refers to speaking in tongues, it is a recognized gift of the Holy Spirit.

2:19 *"There were slain of the Amlicites twelve thousand five hundred thirty and two souls; and there were slain of the Nephites six thousand five hundred sixty and two souls."*

CORRECTION: Christians are men of peace and forgiveness; we are not meant to be warriors at such levels. The New Testament never recorded armed conflicts between the Christians and other people.

3:9 *"And it came to pass that whosoever did mingle his seed with that of the Lamanites did bring the same curse upon his seed."*

CORRECTION: Christians of adequate spiritual strength are permitted to marry non-Christians, for through love they could bring another lost soul to Christ.

5:35 *"Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness, and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire."*

CORRECTION: Pursuing righteousness prepares us to receive the grace of God, and good works are a reflection of our inner purity and faith. However, salvation is always by the grace of God.

5:58 *"For the names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life. "*

CORRECTION: The names of all who could be saved are written in the Book of Life. Few are righteous but many are saved, for Jesus came not for the righteous but the sick.

7:14 *"Now I say unto you that ye must repent, and be born again."*

CORRECTION: Born again is a modern Christian reference to the original Christian reference of being baptized by the Holy Spirit. In reality, we are not born again. Rather, we are first physically born and then spiritually born.

25:11 *"And now Abinadi was the first that suffered death by fire because of his belief in God; now this is what he meant, that many should suffer death by fire, according as he had suffered."*

CORRECTION: Since fire reflects the punishment in Hell, historically Christians have been crucified, beheaded, and tortured, but typically not burned, except when they were falsely accused by other Christians.

27:12 *"Get this people out of this land, that they perish not; for Satan has great hold on the hearts of the Amalekites, ... And thus we know how great the inequality of man is because of sin and transgression, and the power of the devil,*

which comes by the cunning plans which he hath devised to ensnare the hearts of men."

CORRECTION: Christians fear not the great hold of Satan and flee not from such lands. Rather, Christians are sent into such strongholds to reclaim spirits for the Lord, for light is stronger than darkness.

30:12 *"And this Anti-Christ, whose name was Korihor, (and the law could have no hold upon him) began to preach unto the people that there should be no Christ. ... Why do ye look for a Christ? For no man can know of anything which is to come."*

CORRECTION: There are many false prophets but there can be no anti-Christ. To say that another can be considered an opposition to Christ is to give that entity too much credit. Christ is Lord and cannot be opposed.

32:21 *"Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true."*

CORRECTION: Faith is not an embrace of ignorance and immaturity. Faith is a spiritual trust and tie to the Lord, even after seeing the ways of good and evil. Though the pure can achieve faith without much knowledge, knowledge of the Lord's plan increases faith. Jesus came to give us understanding, not ignorance.

33:22 *"Begin to believe in the Son of God, that he will come to redeem his people, and that he shall suffer and die to atone for their sins; and that he shall rise again from the dead, which shall bring to pass the resurrection, that all men shall stand before him, to be judged at the last and judgment day, according to their works."*

CORRECTION: Jesus' people are either the Jews or the whole world, and not just the Jews and the people of Nephi. If Jesus came upon the people of Nephi, then Jesus would have come to every other nation long ago. The Christian mission would be completely different.

39:6 *"For behold, if ye deny the Holy Ghost when it once has had place in you, and ye know that ye deny it, behold, this is a sin which is unpardonable."*

CORRECTION: All sins are pardonable even though some sins are so ingrained as to prevent repentance, thus leading to spiritual defeat. Rejecting the Holy Spirit and God at the point of death - after receiving Christ - makes salvation impossible for God must pull us to Him through Christ and the Holy Spirit. Until the point of death, there is hope.

40:11 *"It has been made known unto me by an angel that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from the mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life ... the spirits of the righteous are received into a state of happiness ... the souls of the wicked, yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful looking for the fiery indignation of the wrath of God ... thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, until the time of their resurrection. "*

CORRECTION: The spirits of true Christians are received by God into a place of rest. However, all other spirits are not brought before God, but placed in the World of the Dead until the day of judgment. Some in the World of the Dead will be saved upon judgment while others are long tormented by the realization of their eventual fate in hell.

40:18 *"Nay; but it (first resurrection) meaneth the reuniting of the soul with the body, of those from the days of Adam*

down to the resurrection of Christ ... their resurrection cometh to pass before the resurrection of the those who die after the resurrection of Christ."

CORRECTION: This is in opposition to Revelation which states that those who died in the name of Christ as Christians shall be the first to rise. Most who died before the resurrection of Christ shall not rise until judgment day a thousand years afterwards. When souls do rise, they will be given new and perfect bodies, not their old bodies of this world.

42:15 *"The plan of mercy could not be brought about except an atonement should be made; therefore God himself atoneth for the sins of the world... to appease the demands of justice ... repentance could not come unto men except there were a punishment ... how could man repent except he should sin? How could he sin if there was no law?"*

CORRECTION: Justice reflects God, God does not serve justice. Since the events of this world and all our actions are considered in God's plan, our actions of sin are only relevant as a reflection of our spiritual quality. However, it is our spiritual quality at the end of our lives that matters. If all our good deeds cannot save us if we turn towards evil in the end, then it must also be true that our sins do not matter if we turn towards good in the end. It is only by remaining in sin that our actions will be held accountable. True sin, as the effect of evil on our spirits, exists no matter whether there are laws. Laws only exist for the immature to help shape our spirits and measure the sin by our actions. If we do not have a ruler, does not an object still have height?

43:45 *"They were fighting for their homes and their liberties, their wives and their children, and their all, yea, for their rites to*

worship and their church ... And again, the Lord has said that: Ye shall defend your families even unto bloodshed."

CORRECTION: The true Christians in Rome never fought for such things. They held services in secret without churches. They yielded to the persecution of Rome and used the trials to proclaim the Word even harder. They surrendered their liberties and their lives, knowing that their spirits are always free and with the Lord.

45:13 *"Those who are now numbered among the people of Nephi, shall no more be numbered among the people of Nephi. But whosoever remaineth, and is not destroyed in that great dreadful day, shall be numbered among the Lamanites."*

CORRECTION: Throughout Christian history, the Lord has permitted a few true Christians to be martyred to help the Church grow in strength. The expectation that the whole Church should be martyred leaving evil to rule the land is against everything we know about the ways of the Lord. All true Christians may be martyred on the last day. However, Jesus will come immediately afterwards to claim the world.

46:16 *"Moroni prayed that the cause of the Christians, and the freedom of the land might be favoured."*

CORRECTION: The true cause for Christians is the Lord's plan and the Lord's will. Thus, it reflects the Lord's favor and does not require the Lord to favor it. Freedom, unless it is a gift by the Lord, is nothing. Often freedom is a testing by the Lord.

46:39 *"And it came to pass that there were many who died, firmly believing that their souls were redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ; thus they went out of the world rejoicing."*

CORRECTION: Faith in one's salvation is important, but salvation lies in doing God's will. Many will absolutely believe that they are saved only to find out after death that they are lost because they followed a false understanding of Christ.

Book of Helaman

5:29 *"There came a voice as if it were above the cloud of darkness, saying: Repent, ye, repent ye, and seek no more to destroy my servants whom I have sent unto you to declare good tidings."*

CORRECTION: The Christian mission is not to force the people to believe via the power and fear of the Lord as indicated above. It is to help people discover the Lord for themselves through the understanding of the Word.

5:48 *"They saw the heavens open; and angels came down out of heaven and ministered unto them."*

CORRECTION: The angels are messengers, protectors, and helpers. They are not ministers, for they are servants and not children of God. If they could embrace the Word, then maybe God would have no need to create man in His image. It is the role of men charged with the Holy Spirit to minister unto man.

10:7 *"I (God) give unto you (Nephi) power, that whatsoever ye shall seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. "*

CORRECTION: The giving of such power to one man is against the teachings of Jesus. Jesus gave this authority to the community of Christians as a whole, united in Him. If one man has the authority, then that man will be equivalent to Jesus, which cannot be so.

14:3 *"I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven ... there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night ... there shall a new star arise."*

CORRECTION: The first coming of Jesus should be with subtle signs that only the faithful will recognize. The above events would be better left to proclaim Jesus' triumphant return in the future.

Third Nephi

2:14 *"And it came to pass that those Lamanites who had united with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites; and their curse was taken from them, and their skin became white like unto the Nephites."*

CORRECTION: By this precedence, all modern day Mormons should undergo a change in skin color to become fair, whether they are Black, Native American, or Asian.

9:2 *"Woe, woe, woe unto this people; woe unto the inhabitants of the whole earth except they shall repent ... Behold, that great city Zarahemla have I burned with fire ... that great city Moronihah have I covered with earth... the city of Gilgal have I cause to be sunk ... Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are ... I am the light and life of the world. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."*

CORRECTION: Jesus came as the savior and not as the destroyer. God the Father destroys the physical so that the spirits will grow.

11:34 *"And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned."*

CORRECTION: Jesus taught us that those who reject Him can be forgiven. They are immature, and some day the Word might take hold. On that day the Holy Spirit will baptize, and that baptism must be embraced. Damnation is a poor word to use in the Christian realm, for Christians are driven by hope. Even though some may eventually be thrown into the darkness, there must be hope.

13:7 *"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen, for they think that they shall be heard for they much speak."*

CORRECTION: Christians are taught to pray to the Father. Jesus taught the things to pray for. However, there are no restrictions on how we pray. If repeating prayers increases the faith and power of the spirit in reaching out to the Lord, then that is fine. If a spirit can build a relation with the Lord through a few simple, powerful words, then that is better.

14:6 *"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."*

CORRECTION: Christianity is specifically meant for the sinners and the sick. Though some may trample on it, others will be transformed. A gentile woman who compared herself to the dog asking for the leftovers from the master's table was granted much more.

15:1 *"Behold ye have heard the things which I taught before I ascended to my Father; therefore, whoso remembereth these sayings of mine and doeth them, him will I raise up at the last day. ... the covenant which I have made with my people is not all fulfilled; but the law which was given unto Moses hath an end in me. Behold, I am the law, and the light."*

CORRECTION: The laws given to Moses did not end but were given meaning through Jesus. Jesus is the truth and the light. In truth there is no need for laws, for the people will try to obey the will of God without the threat of punishment. Some laws, given higher spiritual maturity, are no longer required, but the Commandments embodying God's truth shall stand for all times. In the embrace of truth there is forgiveness by the Father. The truth that Jesus gave is not simply a bunch of sayings to be repeated. Truth lies in the fullness of the Holy Bible that must be studied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

17:7 *"Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you, my bowels are filled with mercy."*

CORRECTION: Jesus did not come to heal the world, for that would have been in defiance of the Father's will. Instead, He only healed a select few to reveal to the faithful the glory of God and the mercy of God. Alternatively, "one might ask why God does not simply heal everyone for all time? We know that all suffering are in God's plan of salvation.

18:28 *"And now behold, this is the commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall not suffer anyone knowingly to partake of my flesh and blood unworthily, when ye shall minister it; for whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to his sou'."*

CORRECTION: The act of communion is not a test of worthiness. It is an expression of love and faith. If love and faith are not present at communion or in any other

Christian practice, then it is for that lack of love and faith that one will be judged.

20:6 *"Now, there had been no bread neither wine, brought by the disciples, neither by the multitude; but he truly gave unto them bread to eat, and also wine to drink."*

CORRECTION: At Galilee, Jesus revealed that it is His way to multiply the creations of God instead of forming food from thin air. Though most certainly Jesus can do what is stated above, it seems to be contrary to His ways.

24:8 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say: Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings ... Bring ye all the tithes into storehouse, that there may be meat in my house."*

CORRECTION: Tithe was established by the Lord for the Jews to increase their trust and dedication to Him. Christians do not need such laws, for everything that a Christian has is given by and belongs to the Lord, and a Christian uses everything in accordance with the Lord's will. Can a child rob his father, when a father's possessions eventually become his?

26:6 *"And now there cannot be written in this book even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people; but behold the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which he taught he people."*

CORRECTION: If this implies that there are things taught by Jesus that are not revealed to us, then it opposes Jesus' word that He has given us everything. The Holy Bible claims that there are no pieces left out.

26:15 *"And it came to pass that after he had ascended into heaven the second time that he showed himself unto them, and*

had gone unto the Father, after having healed all their sick, and their lame."

CORRECTION: If Jesus healed all the sick and the lame, then He should continue to heal all the sick and lame who call upon Him thereafter. Yet, today even the most faithful must suffer at times in accordance with the Lord's plan.

28:13 *"And behold, the heavens were opened, and they were caught up into heaven, and saw and heard unspeakable things. And it was forbidden them that they should utter."*

CORRECTION: The apostles in Jerusalem were not swept up into Heaven. Claims by those who have had visions of Heaven were viewed with uncertainty by the Apostle Paul. Though some may be granted visions of Heaven, or more importantly the future Kingdom of God, it is questionable whether a spirit could dwell in Heaven and still return.

28:25 *"I was about to write the names of those who were never to taste death, but the Lord forbade; therefore I write them not for they are hid from the world ... And behold they will be among the Gentiles, and the Gentiles shall know them not."*

CORRECTION: According to the Bible, Jesus proclaimed that some of the disciples will not die until the Kingdom of God has come in force. Some may question whether the Apostle John lives on to look after the growth of the Church. However, it seems questionable as to why the disciples above should live on among the fallen Christians for hundreds of years after the collapse of the American church.

Fourth Nephi

1:35 *"Two hundred and thirty and first year (since coming of Christ), there was a great division among the people ... there arose a people who were called Nephites, and they were true believers in Christ ... they who rejected the gospel were called Lamanites."*

CORRECTION: The gospel is a specific reference to a text that tells of the works and teachings of Jesus while He was among us. None of the books presented in the Book of Mormon can be considered the gospel as they do not address Jesus' work in Israel and the fullness of Jesus' teachings. At most they are historical texts, whether true or false, that quickly referenced the coming and going of Jesus in the Americas.

Book of Mormon

1:7 *"The whole face of the land had become covered with build-ings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea."*

CORRECTION: There is no archeological evidence of this level of construction in the Americas only a few centuries ago. In contrast, places in the Bible have mostly been archeologically confirmed.

8:14 *"And I am the same who hideth up this record unto the Lord; the plates thereof are of no worth, because of the commandment of the Lord ... the record thereof is of great worth ... And blessed be he that shall bring this thing to light; for it shall be brought out of darkness unto light, according to the word of God."*

CORRECTION: The Word is the light of this world. How can it be brought back into darkness as stated? Does not each generation of the fallen still deserve the Word even if they are too sick to embrace it?

9:33 *"And if our plates had been sufficiently large we should have written in Hebrew; but the Hebrew hath been altered by us also; and if we could have written in Hebrew behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record. But the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also that none other people knoweth our language."*

CORRECTION: The reference to the text being imperfect because of the size of the plates and the language used implies that such writings are not directly the words of God, as are the books in the Bible. Even so, modern linguists can interpret almost any unknown language if it is presented on this scale. However, no source of this language has been discovered archeologically in the Americas. If the translation provided to Joseph Smith was not exactly what was written on the plates, then the plates have no meaning. The Lord could have simply told Joseph Smith everything as He had told Moses.

Book of Ether

1:33 *"Which Jared came forth with his brother and their families, with some others and their families, from the great tower (Babel), at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people."*

CORRECTION: This would imply that Jared was chosen long before Abraham, and one may question why God did not build His people from Jared.

3:14 *"Behold, I am Jesus Christ, I am the Father and the Son. And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast."*

CORRECTION: According to God's plan, Jesus did not reveal Himself until the appointed time. Before that time, God led His people directly. To say that Jesus revealed Himself as above is to diminish the importance of His coming.

Book of Moroni

1:2 *"Because of their hatred they put to death every Nephite that will not deny the Christ."*

CORRECTION: It seems that destroying the church is in disagreement with God's plan.

6:1 *"Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized save they brought forth fruit meant that they were worthy of it. Neither did they receive any unto baptism save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit."*

CORRECTION: The Holy Spirit baptizes the spirits which are ready for Christ. Man baptizes those who want to receive Christ. Some are already prepared. Others have a long journey before the Holy Spirit descends in strength.

7:1 *"He spake concerning faith, hope, and charity; ... But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever."*

CORRECTION: Charity is a part of love, but love is far more than charity. Paul described love better than anyone else. We should not substitute love with simple charity.

8:8 *"Little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me ... it is a solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children."*

CORRECTION: Though children may be saved by God without the help of the Word, this does not mean that they are without sin, for sin is not just action. From the point of birth, evil tries to grow in a new spirit. Though the evil is weak because of the immaturity and purity of the spirit, the evil nevertheless exists.

10:32 *"Love God with all your might, mind, and strength."*

CORRECTION: It is loving God with all one's spirit, not just with one's body that is key.

CAMPAIGN III

THE MISSION TO SAVE THE WORLD

In the two thousand years of fierce battles with the forces of darkness, Christianity, by the grace of God, has nearly fulfilled Jesus' command to deliver the good news to all the nations and to the far corners of the world. Though the freedom to worship the Lord in public and gather as Christians are denied in many countries, most people in this world have heard of Jesus, His Church, and His message of love. Some will automatically reject Jesus without hearing more of the Word while others will seek actively, with some personal risk, to gain access to the Holy Bible and the fullness of the Word. Whether by opening one's hands at the presence of a missionary or by going to the underground markets, the Holy Bible is available in over a thousand languages. No matter how remote or harsh the environment, there is typically a Christian within reachable range of a seeker. If the three wisemen could journey halfway around the world to be there exactly at the birth of the King of kings, surely all other quests to receive the Word are surmountable with the Lord's help. Given this status, Christians might consider the work complete and decide to entrench at home until the arrival of our Lord. Indeed, the job of the messenger may be close to completion. Does it matter that the forces of evil grow stronger with the spirit of man each day? Does it matter that Satan and his army fight ever harder to claim all those captured by evil? Does it matter that there are far more spirits to be saved now than ever before in history? Does it matter that many of the spirits out there that could be saved might become far more powerful Christians than current members of the Body?

Some Christians will argue that the fate of those who do not come rushing to Christ is none of our concern, and that we should simply brush the dust off our feet and move on to give the next person the message. This was indeed the direction in the early days of Christianity when the Lord was gathering the most special

spirits from the Jewish population. For the same purpose, Jesus kept the proof of His identity as the Son of God a secret so that only the spiritually pure and strong who felt and understood His teachings came to Him. If these were all the people whom the Lord wanted in the Kingdom of Heaven, then perhaps the mission should have ended in the third century with the completion of trials for the first Church. Yet, the Lord opened the doors of the Church to all the people of Roman and later Europe. The same could be said about the future, for when Jesus returns, He will through the power of pure truth transform the world into a Christian world. However, before that transformation is complete, many will be lost to evil. Even after the transformation is complete, many of the new Christians yielding to the truth will be far weaker than those who have fought the evil with Jesus in these days of war. So, the Lord cares for everyone, and in love we, too, should care.

If we can fight and win a spirit over to the army of light, then we must fight. If pressuring someone to listen to the fullness of the Word is the only way that spirit will change, then we must push the person to listen. Without doubt, a voluntary seeking of the Word provides the greatest transformation of the spirit. However, many spirits are so captured by the establishments of Satan that they cannot struggle free. For centuries, the Lord has not granted us the power to defeat the establishments of Satan, for Satan was used as a forge to temper the spirits of the strong. Now that the return of Christ is near, the power to defeat Satan's deceptions flows more and more into us. The sword of truth in our hands has grown as we grew, so that now the battle can be fought with final fury to expose the establishments of Satan, and awaken the many trapped spirits. Any establishment that is not of the Lord is owned, or influenced by Satan.

The battle to save the world is a matter of increasing the spiritual purity, strength, and maturity of those rejecting the Word so that the Word can be embraced. Once the Word has been embraced, the battle changes to the two previous campaigns. In increasing purity, we have to defeat the external controls of the armies of darkness and the internal effects of evil. False religions, ideologies, and teachings must be exposed, for many spirits are no longer able to see the

truth when surrounded by chaos. Sources of temptation and corruption must be exposed, for many spirits are no longer able to see goodness when surrounded by evil. Today's spirits have grown in strength through the generations from doing battle with evil. However, most have now reached a point of stagnation, and many are backsliding towards evil. For these spirits, the Word purifies when it enters and pushes the spirit towards maturity, so that it can truly battle with evil. For many, the condition for the Word to be received has not yet been established, because the spirits linger in spiritual weakness. To battle this weakness and the evil that ties the spirit to a numbing state, we must often with actions of love and compassion stir those spirits to care.

Apathy in spirits may be one of our greatest enemies, for it is a surrendering of the spirit to evil, which will eventually pull the spirit towards not just corruption, but actual death. Even Satan's forces do not fight for apathy, for Satan wants powerful servants. Though some spirits might grow stronger after achieving a higher state of purity and maturity, many are too weak to understand the Word. In such cases, our actions are important, for through actions we can share our spiritual strength. The sharing occurs when the weak starts seeing us as stronger brothers, and learns to live and fight beside us. Standing beside us physically at first, they may then learn to love and care as we love and care. Growing spiritual strength must be a very careful endeavor, for the evil in spirits will grow along with strength. When one has convinced a spirit to care, he may suddenly care about all the wrong things. When people were gaining strength throughout the centuries, the Lord brought them to the truth at the precise time to complete the battle against evil. Now when we help people gain strength in a world touched by the Word but filled with evil, we must continuously spoon feed the Word until the fullness of the Word is received.

While the strength of spirits may be hard to change, the maturation of the spirit is a natural process if not corrupted by the forces of evil. The core desire of consciousness and life is to know itself, its creator, and its world. As the awareness grows, the spirit becomes closer to being a child of God. As the awareness grows, it becomes more difficult for evil to take hold, for the true nature of man is

goodness. Thus, the awareness of truth is resisted by evil and fought against by Satan's army. The powers of evil hinder maturation, while dark forces seek to fool awareness with lies and deception. The gift of the Word to the world and the imminent coming of our Lord reveals that the world is no longer able to mature at its own pace. Every nation and every person now need the Word in boldness. This means that showing people the Word may not always be adequate. In many cases, the Word must be placed in their hands or be read to them one chapter at a time from the Book of Matthew and from the Book of Genesis.

A. SAVING THE STRONG BUT IMMATURE SPIRITS

The first battle plan we shall formulate seeks to save those who are spiritually strong but immature. With insufficient initial purity to sense the Lord, these spirits have historically been driven towards paths of achieving influence in the world. Long ago when the physical knowledge of man was at a minimum, such spirits turned to powers that were not directly granted by the Lord. Such powers are drawn from God's creation, such as the human spirit, the unity of spirits, and the energy God placed in nature. As Christians we are taught not to turn to these powers, which we cannot control, but rely on the power of God, which is pure and great. Those spirits captured by evil often turned to darker sources of power from evil spirits in the World of the Dead, demons that wander the land, and Satan or another one of the fallen archangels. As the physical awareness of man grew, his ability to apply such forms of spiritual power decreased. Instead, man became trapped by science and a belief in the physical. Nevertheless, those who seek to use the dark powers even today often succeed, for sometimes Satan will grant power to those he can use. Thus, as the true druids and shamans disappeared, Satan worshipers and practitioners of witchcraft or voodoo continue to hide in the darker corners of our society. In these last days, as the spiritual strength of man increases

dramatically, we are also seeing a re-emergence of powers derived from the environment despite the hold of science.

To further expose these powers and their use, a study of the historical practice of magic reveals five branches of power application. The first branch is force projection, where the spirit uses its power to move itself (levitation), objects of focus (thaumaturgy or telekinetics), and particles of matter (elemental control). The latter application is the most difficult. In scripture, Jesus revealed that the use of God's power for these applications is far greater and safer, for God will only permit its use for His plan. Jesus walked on water and changed the weather. He taught us that we can move mountains, if we have faith.

The second branch of power application is transmutation where matter is altered. The simplest form of transmutation is molecular interaction, which often creates pyrotechnics or substance state changes. Then, there are more complex molecular rearrangement activities which, when applied to the body, can lead to healing. The most advanced application involves atomic restructuring. The early alchemists tried through chemical reactions and an application of spiritual power to make the simplest elemental changes, for instance from lead into gold. Jesus easily changed the atomic structure of water into the complex structure of wine. He also changed the molecules of the air into thousands of fishes and loaves of bread using a single fish and piece of bread as blue print. He even transformed the structure of mud into a working human eye.

The third branch of power application is spirit control. The simplest application is to stretch out one's spirit into another so that mind reading (telepathy) or emotion sensing (empathy) is achieved. The next application is the separation of the spirit from the body temporarily so that the spirit can journey to places, such as the World of the Dead, where the body cannot (astral projection). In contrast, a spirit may invite another spirit into the body to share its powers (seance style possession). As Christians, we understand that God placed our spirits in our bodies to grow. Thus, we should not rebel against momentary confinement nor attempt to unite spiritually unless it is by the Lord's permission. Further, the only spirit that we must allow to enter us is the Holy Spirit, for no other spirit that

wanders the land freely after the fall of Satan is of God. The angels who serve God now all watch over us, and are under strict guidance. They will not enter us, because that will challenge the role of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God left a person, like King Saul, before an evil spirit was permitted to enter. If we surrender ourselves completely to the control of the Holy Spirit, often we will speak in the language of the angels (tongues) though we may not know what it means. In doing so, we must be very careful in making sure that it is indeed the Holy Spirit that is entering us.

The fourth branch of power application is summoning, where the will of one's spirit is exerted to control another spirit. Targets of such exertion of control and conjuring have typically been animals, spirits in the World of the Dead, and demons. It is Biblically documented that the spirit of the prophet Samuel was summoned against his will through witchcraft from his place of rest in the World of the Dead to speak with King Saul. The fact that the spirits of the dead can return to this world supports the widely accepted belief that there are ghosts among us. However, even though some human spirits are trapped by this world, the evidence suggests that the Lord does not permit them to have any power in this world. Demons, fallen angels, are far from powerless in this world where they have worked since the dawn of creation. Thus, the control of demons is incredibly difficult in our current state, for man is still not yet above the angels or the fallen angels. Most likely all control of demons for personal gain is an illusion created by Satan to lure the users into his control. With Satan at work, naturally any demon will obey. Once again, the power of God is supreme, for every spirit is His creation. Jesus can command a tree to die, a goldfish to bring coins, and a thousand demons to enter into pigs.

The fifth branch of power application is fortune-telling. God, in creation, wrote the patterns of His perfect plan into all things. However, man is asked to turn to God for knowledge and understanding of His plan. Since too much knowledge to the immature is harmful, God throughout history has carefully selected what should be revealed to man to foster his spiritual growth. The more man grows closer to God, the more he is given knowledge of past,

current, and future things. As Christians, we should not seek elsewhere to know things that we are not ready to know, because God will withhold knowledge which is beyond our spiritual maturity to handle. However, what is important, the framework of God's perfect plan has been revealed to all through Jesus. This knowledge, as embodied in the Holy Bible, leads to our spiritual salvation and continued spiritual growth. It is what all people should seek. Nevertheless, the rebellious and the non-Christians will try to apply their own spiritual awareness to figure out God's pattern in creation without the permission of God. As God warned us, though attempts may lead to glimpses of truth, the vision will be distorted by evil.

The first type of pattern studied by the rebellious involves the examining of stellar positions in astrology, the reading of lines in palms, and similar observations. Such passive techniques seek an understanding of global events and the involvement of people in them. The next step in pattern study involves active techniques where glimpses of the future are pursued through the interactions of man in this world. A simple activity by a spirit, such as selecting cards or leaving residue tea leaves, can lead to a revealing of God's patterns. The ultimate step in defying God is to seek knowledge of the future from spirits other than the Lord (divination). Beings of Heaven naturally have a different understanding of the events in this world unlike man who is trapped in a physical body. However, they will not reveal their understanding in disobedience of the Lord unless they have fallen from Heaven. The knowledge of fallen angels is incomplete and incorrect, for they are corrupted by evil.

We have discussed the five branches of spiritual power that drive the world of magic and how Jesus demonstrated that spiritual power is far greater when serving the will of God. There is a sixth area of power demonstrated by Jesus and the apostles that magic cannot even approach. The power of resurrection is directly granted by God. Its manifestation is forbidden to be described by all the observers. We cannot begin to speculate how a spirit returns to the world. Throughout the history of magic, no one has dared to proclaim that he successfully created life or restored life. Even the greatest

sorcerers, wizards, arch-mages, warlocks, shamans, and witch-doctors departed this world never to return in the flesh.

As man drifted away from this realm of magic and became trapped by the physical world of science, the sciences emerged quite ironically with certain parallels to the five areas of magic. The physical study of forces led to the emergence of physics and the spiritual incapacity to influence it. The physical study of matter led to the emergence of chemistry and the spiritual incapacity to change it. The physical study of the mind led to the emergence of psychology and the spiritual inability to break free. The physical study of other life led to the emergence of biology and the spiritual incapacity to touch it. The path of fortune-telling is different in that there are no physical traps that directly dispel such capability. Instead, the departure of capable people into other activities has reduced the quality of its practitioners. Nevertheless, even in this scientific age, millions of people around the world still turn to fortune-tellers. Secular opponents have only argued about fortune-tellers' success and scientific improbability, but not their incorrectness. Because there is God, there must be a future. As Christians we do not argue whether fortunes can be told, for our prophecies are great and true. We simply argue against the authority of fortune-tellers who defy the Lord.

Though science is an inherent reflection of strong but immature spirits attempting to seek the truth, the practice of science without the power of the Holy Spirit could only lead to folly, for the evil blinds us and Satan then leads us away into false conclusions. In the twentieth century, as science gained incredible strength, false conclusions abound in every field to hinder man's spiritual maturity. In physics, theories were developed which portrayed the universe as relative and time as an alterable fluid medium. Thus, thousands of alternative futures could exist, defying the concept of God's creation as a pure singular process with beginning and end. In biochemistry, technologies are emerging to completely alter the design of our bodies through genetic manipulation, challenging the belief that physical life is a special gift from the Lord to each individual spirit. Few ask to what extent the Lord will permit this challenge. In

psychology, analytical practices have been refined to address our inner being as strictly the activities of neuro-impulses in response to the physical world, thus denying the effects of the spirit. In biology, a theory of natural selection has emerged which described God's careful development of creatures in this world to reflect the course of man's spiritual development as simply a random environmentally-induced process. The unfortunate position of the Church in battling the corruptions in science is that it has often historically denounced science as a whole, and drove many immature but powerful spirits into the scientific realm. The more this occurred through the years, the greater the inability of the Church to practice science with the power of the Holy Spirit grew. With Christians skilled in the art of pursuing physical evidence, we can scientifically prove that God's creation is absolute and not relative. We can show that life is far more than the sum of genes. We can reveal that the mind is but a reflection of the spirit. We can unravel God's pattern of creation, by His permission, however random it may first appear. Unlike secular scientists who have to guess at theories based on physical observations, Christians skilled in science can develop explanations because they know the hand of the Creator.

B. SAVING THE STRONG BUT STAGNATED SPIRITS

While the spiritually strong but immature are either misusing the power in this world or trapped in a false search for truth, the spiritually strong and maturing have through the centuries managed to reach many points of stagnation in their awareness because of a lack of purity. Many have remained stubborn in their stagnation despite receiving the Word. Others have not yet been given the Word in full force. The most significant of these non-Christian spiritual paths is the one started by Gautama Siddhartha, the Buddha, in 525 BC. Through intense meditation on his own spiritual powers and through rejecting the corruption of this world, those who followed him believed that he was able to achieve the

ultimate state of spiritual enlightenment, which is a pure spiritual existence in a state known as Nirvana. Since then the Theravada branch of Buddhism has focused on the power of pure thought and deeds. The Mahayana branch, which includes Zen and Sokagakkai, has incorporated Oriental practices of philosophy, ritual and regimental meditation, and the belief in the support of higher beings in their Buddhist pursuits. The Tantrism branch of Buddhism, which includes the Lamas of Tibet, has through the centuries ritualistically focused their spiritual powers towards magic and spiritual awareness towards sophisticated philosophies. Along each branch, numerous texts have been generated and passed down in its overarching monastic structure. Despite variations in the rigor and forms of execution, most Buddhists focus on four truths: 1. pursuit of morality (Sila), 2. practice of meditation (Samadhi), 3. attainment of wisdom, and 4. deliverance from the cycle of rebirth (Magga).

The path of Buddhism has been impressive in a realm without the Word, for it has encouraged peace, though not love, and fleeing from evil, though not defeating evil. However, this individual path has clearly reached a stagnation in understanding and is trapped by many false awarenesses. Many spirits have backslid into ritualism, which includes the obligatory giving of alms, the holding of festivals, and the pilgrimage to a holy place. Buddhism is correct in seeing the human spirit as powerful and acknowledging the effect of evil in this world. What they could not see because of spiritual impurity is that this world, as a battlefield against evil, was created by God and that by separating from it in disgust, one has separated from the battle. This is against Christian understanding. Escaping temporarily from the corruption of evil is commendable, but the lack of struggle against evil will hinder one's spiritual growth. One great impact of this trap is the lack of love for others due to spiritual detachment. God often permits tragedies so that we will start caring and loving. One great consequence of this trap is a lack of ability to resist the true evil which lurks in our spirits and pulls our spirits away from God in death. Another false awareness of Buddhism is the belief in reincarnation. Buddhist spiritual strength has permitted glimpses of the spirits in the World of the Dead and the links

between spirits going back to Adam. There is indeed a cycle of life in which spiritual qualities are passed from one generation to the next. However, the belief that a single spirit would be sent back to the battle over and over again, often not as a man, is in opposition to God's plan for our spiritual salvation. This false awareness is natural if one cannot see Heaven but only the World of the Dead.

Despite these huge errors, Buddhism through the centuries may have nevertheless helped many people trapped in spiritual weakness and immaturity rise above the physical entanglements. Though these people were still not fit for God's grace of salvation, some of them may become fit when the Word is given to them in the World of the Dead. Thus, for many years while the Word was delivered throughout Europe, it was withheld from Asia. The issue today is that as evil and the armies of darkness gain in strength, the inadequacy of Buddhism is overwhelming. Much of this religion has already turned to ritualism and superstition where spiritual disciplines have been forgotten. Even the most enlightened are invaded by worldly thoughts and concerns. The Dali Lama of Tibet has for decades been more of a politician than a Buddha. Nearly every monastery today is concerned with money and financing. What is Buddhism if monks need accountants and attorneys? Thus, perhaps it is time for Buddhism to declare that fleeing from this world is futile and it should end. Fleeing has delayed the acceptance of the Word and the calling to arms.

Buddhism is a structured ancient path of spiritual exploration. In more recent times, people of spiritual strength but insufficient purity, are often drawn to a free-forming spiritual quest to find the creator. Many of these people are a part of the Unitarian church movement while others took on "enlightened" humanistic paths adopted by many of the founders of America. These paths are very understandable when one can sense God, but is unable to understand the truth that Jesus brought. In that state, one's spiritual exploration to find truth takes on a human-centric rather than God centric perspective. The assessment of the human state becomes a criterion for judging what God must be like. Unfortunately this path is filled

with traps planted by Satan, and an embarkation on this path leads one further away from the real truth.

With Satan's careful manipulation of perception, people on this spiritual quest perceive that the suffering of the body is more tragic than the corruption of the soul, physical liberty and happiness are mandated by God, and living a good life is adequate for salvation. In reality, they are so blinded by spiritual impurity that they cannot see how everyone is far from God's goodness. They cannot understand all the people whom God has placed in bondage. They cannot accept that God would permit suffering in the world. To meet their lack of understanding, a false image of God is often created where God is powerless against the world or distant to the world. God becomes the creator and observer, but everything happens by the course of nature and human undertaking. Lost in a false reality, the spirit is once again alone with the perceived best wishes of God on its side. The power of God through the Holy Spirit is often simply not accepted as possible. In contrast to Buddhism, these spiritual seekers see redemption as fighting the world instead of withdrawing from it. They pray little but work hard to save lives. They indulge in the pleasures of the world, and at the same time argue against the selfishness and excesses of others. Yet, in the end, like the Buddhists, they will be trapped in their ignorance and backslide in spiritual growth. Many non-Christian humanitarians eventually lose their faith in all that they have fought for. Many non-Christian seekers of God digress to being agnostic and eventually stop caring about their quest.

C. SAVING THE WEAK AND IMMATURE SPIRITS

The battle to save the spiritually strong is to deliver the fullness of the Word with such power that it pushes the spirit of the immature to grow, and wipes away the confusion for the more mature. The battle to save the spiritually weak is far more challenging, for the fullness of the Word can only be absorbed to a limited degree. To cause a limited absorption to awaken the spirit to fight against the corruption of evil and to invite the Holy Spirit is the heart of

this battle. Fortunately, the simplicity of the spirit also reduces the places where evil can hide and grow. Thus, often times the spiritually weak may nevertheless achieve a remarkable level of spiritual faith and purity within themselves, even though their ability to do battle against evil in this world is limited.

The first type of spiritually weak people are those who still linger in immaturity. Lacking the strength to choose their own course, the maturity to see the right course, and the purity to be guided by the Lord, these people are often swept along by the currents of this world. Some of them are in the Christian churches because they were born in a Christian realm. Others are scattered among all the governments and religions of the world, and some religions emerged specifically to trap the weak and immature people. In the latter cases, the hold of evil is extremely strong. Whether Christians, pagans, or atheists, they all share a common apathy and inability to understand. As a result, their spirits are ruled by fears and superstitions, and their actions are governed by rituals and traditions. Thus, their apathy is preserved and their spirits remain lifeless. Many of the Christians in the churches of the Middle Ages lingered in this state. As a result, Christian history is littered with superstitions and pagan practices. Nevertheless, the Word is powerful, for among the rituals and superstitions other Christians rose from apathy to intensely love God whom they can barely understand. Through that love the Holy Spirit empowered them to follow God's will, and be God's loyal servants, if not His friends. Thus, the spiritually weak and immature are not beyond salvation. However, the battle to save them must take on a unique strategy.

In this strategy, the first thing that must be recognized is that the Word may have to be delivered in parts and in a digestible manner, parallel to feeding babies milk, as described by Paul. However, greater and greater parts of the Word must be continuously provided. The second part of the strategy is to utilize such infant spirits' tendency and need to follow and imitate. Instead of letting them become trapped by meaningless rituals, those with spiritual strength and maturity should lead the weak through actions towards the ways of love and faith. The quality of weak and immature spirits often

lends itself to increasing faith, for it is the nature of infants to want to cling to the parent. The main challenge is to lead them to the correct parent, the true God and true Jesus, and train them to hang on by pulling at them while gradually increasing force. Sometimes the infant lets go and the parent must pull him back. If the parent pulls him back too soon, the infant will not want to hang on again. Thus, spirits that drift away from the Lord are often permitted to endure great trials and tribulations to increase their desire to find the Lord again. Then the Lord will gather them back. As instruments of the Lord, we must execute this strategy by showing weak and immature spirits how to hang on to the Lord in faith despite all temptations and torments. The Lord will recruit those with the right qualities to take on this difficult job, for the trials should not be taken as punishment but as God's grace. Through these trials and service to the Lord, we, too, may grow.

While other Christians may be supported by our example, non-Christians may seek Jesus after witnessing the powers of Christian faith. Though their initial entry into the Body of Christ is in weakness and in need of the Lord's love, through the power of the Word and then the Holy Spirit, they may grow in strength, maturity, and most importantly, purity. While the strategy to increase faith is fairly direct, the strategy to increase love is complex and difficult, for love cannot be pushed to grow with trials and tribulations. Those Christian servants who are to be examples of love cannot be recruited. Instead, the love in them leads them to volunteer, and their actions of love must flow from the spirit. Many Christians have tried to take on this burden of leadership while love was not in them. In the end, they are captured by evil, for the Lord cannot support such insincerity.

Like faith, the capacity to love is governed by spiritual strength but the willingness to love is governed by spiritual purity. Unlike faith, however, the capacity to love is much lower for weaker spirits, because faith stems from the basic nature of the spirit to depend on God while love stems from the nature of the spirit to be like God. What we must remember is that despite this difficulty, no spirit is without the capacity to love. While love may depend on spiritual strength, it is also a prime motivator for the spirit to grow in

strength. If a spirit is introduced to pure love from another spirit, it will begin to realize its need and ability to love. Often, this introduction to love must be from someone close, for a non-Christian alien to love may reject the Lord and strangers. Along this path, Christian servants must practice gentility to build true friendship with non-Christians that leads to trust and love. The Word should be presented, but as a comforter and not as a sword. We should not worry too much about what rate the Word is delivered, for the heart of the Word is love. If the love of the spirit has been delivered and received, then the Word is taking hold.

One unique danger with the weak and immature is that they are highly vulnerable to cults. Some of them hurt by the world look for a place to be cared for. Others are simply lured in by promises of friendship. Cults are not organizations of spiritual pursuits, despite their rhetoric. They are organizations that attack the mind and body to trap the spirit. To the outside world, the spiritual paths touted by cults are completely irrational. However, those in cults are compelled not to question the tight community under a master of manipulation. Naturally, the weak spirits cannot struggle free. The instruments against the mind in cults typically include intense peer pressure to conform, praise for conformity, and threats of rejection for misbehavior. Then they deny all elements of personal identity, capture personal wealth and other means of self-sufficiency, and limit travel to within a close communal area to capture the body. As cults are not just spiritual barriers but actual physical ones, rescuing people from cults requires physical penetration of cult compounds and extraction of victims. Then, a period of mental adjustment must occur to create a stable link to the spirit. Once the cult victim has been rescued by Christians, the gradual healing and growth can begin.

D. SAVING THE WEAK AND STAGNATED SPIRITS

The hardest battle involves saving the spiritually weak and partially mature. In their maturity, they see the Lord. Unlike the Buddhists, they are not blinded by the power of their own spirits.

However, in their weakness, they cannot build a relation to serve the Lord. In their impurity, they are often trapped by Satan's trickery. The first in this group were many of the Jews. Their initial spiritual strength and maturity earned them the eternal right to be called God's first chosen people. God fostered their maturation with trials and tribulations, as well as great rewards. However, their growth stagnated, for many of them were spiritually too weak to realize the love that is behind God's laws. What good is not charging one's neighbor interest on borrowed money if one does not learn that in love we should share and care? What good is presenting offerings to God if one merely wants to receive God's blessings without the desire to love and please God? What good is not committing adultery if one constantly desires someone who is committed to another? If Jesus had come upon them with fire from Heaven, they surely would have bowed down to the Son of God. However, nothing would be changed, and they would continue to linger in spiritual weakness. Thus, Jesus presented to them the truth, which they were not able to discover by themselves under God's laws. The spiritually strongest and purest among the Jews were led away to become Christians, and under Jesus they began a new path of growth. Most of these first spiritually-strong Christians were the Hellenistic Jews who formed the bulk of the upper-class and intellectual elite. The scriptures recorded thousands of these Jews flocking to receive the Word. The spiritually pure Christians often came from the poor, sick, and suffering. Their expressions of faith were often singled out as examples in scripture.

However, this rescue of select Jews does not mean that the Lord had abandoned the remainder of His people to darkness, for then the Lord would have destroyed them all, like the Canaanites. Instead, the Lord continued their training with centuries of trials, tribulations, and exposure to Christianity. Clearly, within each generation of Jews there were those who were of such spiritual purity or strength that they were led by the Lord to become Christians. As instruments of the Lord, we must make sure that all Jews are exposed to the Word, and can receive the Word if they so choose.

From the Jews of Jesus' time the two smaller sects of Sadducees and Essenes quickly disappeared. The Sadducees (followers of

Sadok - high priest of Solomon), who followed a strict literal adherence to the Torah, were mostly Hellenized. Those who rejected and/or opposed Christianity disbanded after the great Jewish revolt against Rome. The Essenes, who followed a monastic separatist path, faded away, for they relied on the adoption of orphans to continue. Perhaps these sects reached the peak of their spiritual growth. The excavated Essene settlement of Qumran provided one of the oldest versions of the Old Testament as a part of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Though most of the Jewish middle class were apathetic, they were generally tied to the Pharisees sect. Thus, most of today's Jews are descendants of the Pharisees whom Jesus spoke out against. The Pharisees, after being spread throughout the Roman world, continued their path of adherence to laws and rituals. By 220 AD, the Mishna (repetition) was developed as a documented summary of rabbinical interpretations. This evolved into the book of the Talmud (learning). The Talmud is a reflection of a people who have drifted away from the guidance of God and their prophets. But, they who must still live by laws started to bend the laws and create new laws through interpretations. Despite their distance from the Lord and their continued spiritual stubbornness, the descendants of the Pharisees still tried to remain God's people. In so doing, they awakened the Christian understanding of hope. With their temple destroyed and their families far away from Israel, they built synagogues (houses of assembly) to gather and worship God. Though disappointed with their spiritual stagnation, we must consider that God still has higher regards for the Jews than many of the false Christians and pagans of this world.

Beyond the basic missionary activity of offering the Word, the battle to save the spiritually weak Jews becomes more complex. First, Christians must remember that spiritually weak people crucified our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, Jesus forgave them. Thus, the battle to save them will involve physical dangers. Many of these weak people have already achieved remarkable faith and dedication. The leap of the spirit that they have not made, however, is love. As Paul revealed, without love there is nothing. One strategy to help them find love is to shower them with love and caring. Initially Christians will be met with distrust and condescension. We must

remind them that we, too, are servants of the one true God and that it is for God to punish us as He has punished other nations if we act against His will. Then Christians must show the Jews that we do understand the Hebrew Old Testament, especially the Torah (Books of Moses). The only difference is that rather than using the Talmud interpretation of laws, we Christians follow a path of interpretation established by Jesus. We should follow Jesus' lead in not fighting over the rightful position of Jesus, for the Son of God can endure all rejections. Instead, we should focus on explaining the truth that Jesus brought and let that truth lead them to their Messiah and our Lord. In time, the teachings in the New Testament will cancel out the distance created by the Talmud. The rabbis will no longer have to interpret laws, for they will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Jewish rabbinical authorities must recognize that Christianity started as a Jewish sect and is entitled to a voice. They may accuse Christianity of breaking away from the Old Testament laws. To that we must reemphasize that we have not broken away but only follow the laws with a different understanding. Our following of the Old Testament is as different as the Orthodox Jews are different from the Reform Jews today. The rabbinical authorities may question how we could address Jesus as the Lord. We can declare that our mission in the footsteps of Jesus is to provide a deeper meaning of God's truth, and that we are only concerned with such understanding being openly received. In the campaign to rescue the Church, we have already explained how Christians are not polytheists. This explanation must also be used to block Jewish accusations. Perhaps the most devastating counter argument from rabbinical authorities is the accusation that Christianity has not brought peace to the world. To fully defend against this argument, we must systematically explain how even though Christians are far from perfect, God's plan for the world through Christianity is perfect. God's plan is not necessarily peace, but the growth and salvation of the human spirit, often through trials.

Of the current Jewish divisions, the Reform group may be most open to hearing Christian presentations. However, their arrogance, as revealed in their attempt to change Jewish practices through

rationalism in the world environment, will offer a unique challenge. Most likely, upon looking at Christianity, they will reject most of it as a legacy of the past. Even if they do accept some of Jesus' teachings, they will seek to alter it through their own opinion. This manipulation may be a threat to weak Christians. Thus, the missionaries to the Jews must not only be humble but also firm in their faith. Despite this initial challenge, we must pray that the seeds we plant by God's grace will eventually take hold.

Unlike the Reform Jews, the Orthodox Jews, especially the ultra-traditional Hasidic sects, will express immediate open rejection of all Christian teachings. Missionaries may even face physical danger when approaching them. However, these people in their confusion are strong in dedication, perhaps far more than the Pharisees of old. If they can be won over with love, their dedication will be a fresh breath to Christianity. The missionaries to the Orthodox Jews may have to adhere to the laws of the Torah in order to live among them. If the Torah is obeyed, even the Orthodox Jews must show welcome. Despite our understanding, obeying the Torah is not against Christianity. By living among them, we can then love them and show them how to truly love God and one another.

The modern Jews most similar to the Pharisees of old are the Conservative Jews who emerged in the United States. After generations in safety and prosperity, these Jews have disguised their apathy with a cloak of moderation and quelled their need to serve the Lord with a pattern of traditionalism. Yet, deep down they are very tied to the world. Thus, the Word will indeed be too hard for most of them to follow. To avoid even looking at the Word, Conservative Jews will often treat Christianity as a European religion that has no place in the Jewish nation. They will argue that Judaism is a people and a religion that cannot be separated. If Jews become Christians, then their nation will be lost. This need for national identity is emphasized by their prosperity and their emptiness. Because of the difficulty in missioning to this Jewish group, the Lord has placed them in a country filled with all Christian denominations. This campaign is one of patience and perseverance.

One unique turn of events within the Jewish community that we must exploit is the giving way of the spiritually weak but more

mature Jews to a rising group of spiritually strong but immature Jews. To them, Judaism is a national heritage and not an answer to their spiritual needs. Many of them are spiritual seekers. Some of them have been collected by the deceptions of science, for science does not directly oppose Judaism but proclaims that it is on the side of truth. Others have been totally consumed by the passions of this world. As a result, there are many highly respected Jews in science, finance, and business. The campaign to save them can be fought with the fullness of the Word. However, such a battle will not be without organized resistance, for the hold of the world is strong. In fact, before an organized campaign to save the Jews is even discussed across the Christian realm, some Jews have launched a campaign to weaken the Christian realm.

The Reconstructionism movement seeks to unite the Jews as a people and culture. Some Jews then want their people to be placed high in the Christian realm, even if the Christian realm must be weakened. The first of these offensive actions is to exploit our common heritage. In democratic societies where Jews have reached high positions, they have supported a view that discussing God in an Old Testament context should be sufficient for all public settings. After all, the God of the Old Testament is the Christian God. Alternatively, the view also considers a bold presentation of Christ as being too offensive to some. Thus, stories in the Old Testament are widely shown in media while Christian stories are limited and carefully presented on a few holidays. Even in the Old Testament stories, the presence of Jesus as the Angel of the Lord who has the full authority of the Lord is not addressed. As Christians, though we may focus on God and only the teachings of Jesus when initially approaching some Jews, we ourselves cannot deny Jesus' position as the Son of God. Towards this end, any presentation of Old Testament stories which is not from a Christ perspective is not a Christian presentation. Jews can tell the story of Moses directly from the Old Testament. However, a Christian telling the story of Moses must include Jesus' explanation of the meaning of the Ten Commandments and changes in how the other laws should be viewed and used. The Jews can tell the story of Abraham, but Christians must emphasize God's promise

that Abraham's descendants will be the means by which all the nations of the world shall come to know God.

The greatest battle to be fought against the world is perhaps saving the people of Islam (Muslim, or ones who submit themselves to God). Unlike the Jews who have stagnated in their growth, the people of Islam have been led down an incorrect path that now traps them in spiritual death. Yet, the Lord permitted Islam to grow, perhaps because the people of the Middle East have rejected Judaism and Christianity, which surrounded them for centuries. Initially, Islam brought these people one step away from paganism. This step did allow a few to grow to become Christians. Further, Islam has been used throughout the centuries as an instrument to test the faith of Christians whom they have conquered, and strengthen Christians who opposed them. In the twentieth century, a new Islamic revival emerged to compete aggressively with Christianity for the lost souls of this world. In this last phase of battle prior to the return of Christ, we Christians are finally equipped with the full power of the Word to confront the incorrectness of Islam with truth instead of force. Faced with such undeniable truth about their religion, the most corrupt among them will surely seek to destroy Christians by force. In this battle, many Christian lives may be lost in violent attacks across the world. In this battle, what is sadder is that many Muslim souls may be lost due to absolute inability to embrace the truth.

The heart of this battle should center around Christians showing Muslims how the Qur'an is in disagreement with the truth in the Christian New Testament and the Hebrew Old Testament, even though their great prophet Muhammad proclaimed both Moses and Jesus as true prophets of God. In the presentation, Christians should also provide evidence that Islam was created by Muhammad specifically for the Arab people and designed to resist the penetration of truth from Christianity. In this manner, the Arab people have been trapped in incorrectness since the fifth century. This type of attack on the foundation of Islam is presented later in this discussion. The effective execution of this attack will free those with a spiritual capacity to grow in strength, maturity, and purity from the grasps of traditional beliefs. However, it will also launch the spiritually

weak and stubborn into a state of great hatred. Nevertheless, the continued spread of Islam into other realms and pulling down other people might be slowed. In the end, the only way to fight the blind hate is with love and endurance. Endurance does not mean that Christians should seek martyrdom. It means that we should absorb all that does not really harm us, evade all that will do us harm, and always provide love in return. Criticisms and words of anger cannot harm us.

As with other religions that profess to know God, Islam through the centuries has evolved into sects and institutions. After the death of their prophet Muhammad, the people of Islam were initially ruled by caliphs (successors). The first caliphs were of the Orthodox line in Medina (632-61 AD). Then the authority shifted to the caliphs of the Umayyad line in Damascus (661-750 AD). Eventually the caliphs of Abbasids in Baghdad assumed control (750-1258). However, after 900 AD, Islam began to divide into two theologically opposed orders. From North Africa, Egypt, and Syria, the Shi'ism movement emerged as followers of Ali Alids, the fourth caliph and Muhammad's cousin. Generally the minority in the Islamic realm, Shi'ism focuses on inner faith, which they call Iman. The rest of the Islamic realm became Sunnis during the Turkish Seljuk Dynasty (1038-1194). Sunnism, unlike the pursuers of inner faith, distilled Islam to five and sometimes six physical practices: profession of faith (shahada), worship (salat), alms-giving (zakat), pilgrimage (hajj), fasting (saum), and at times holy warfare Gihad). If followed rigorously, these daily and annual rituals lead to a life of pattern and spiritual complacency. In many ways the Sunni Muslims reflect the Pharisees of old. Their religion is tied to their culture, and there is an inherent unwillingness even to debate Christianity. Unlike the opportunity to live among the Jews, Christians cannot claim a historical tie to the Muslims. As a result, the missionaries to the Muslims are outsiders, relying on a new world order of global tourism and trade to grant them limited access to regions of Sunni Islam. Christians can start the peaceful and loving penetration of their world at the trade borders where Christianity and Islam once intermixed. We can start in Jerusalem where we still have many Holy strongholds. We can enlist the help of the surviving, though

non-evangelical, Christians in the one time strongholds of Egypt and what was Antioch. We can use Turkey's modern tie to European alliances to grow Christian presence in our one time capital of Istanbul (old Constantinople).

In many ways Christians should be encouraged by the modern resurgence of Shi'ism starting in Iran. Sunnism creates politically moderate nations that make for easier coexistence with western cultures. However, the passion in Shi'ism demand a challenge to decades of western influence in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. While Shi'ism is a political threat, their willingness to engage people on matters faith means that there may be a true opportunity to engage them. Even by their own laws, peace must be responded to with peace. The opportunity to engage Shi'ism is further increased as they will continuously try to push the boundaries of Islam. For weaker Christian regions, this is a tremendous emerging threat and test of faith. However, if the Christian realm is prepared to triumph spiritually, this new growing frontline of battle will create a greater opportunity for decisive victory over the grasps of a false prophet.

While Muhammad was perhaps the most influential of the false prophets through the ages, the liberal societies of the late twentieth century, combined with the continuing apathy of the Christian realm have given rise to many fledging false prophets. Unlike Muhammad, who may have been motivated to advance his people even through deception, these false prophets are often driven by their own insanity or need for power. Instead of focusing on a new way of living, they often tend to espouse endless prophecies and interpretations of true prophecies for people afraid of the future. In some cases, these false prophecies and interpretations are directly from Satan, disguised as a messenger of the Lord. In other cases, the false prophets are led to their conclusions by the manipulation of evil. Thus, all visions must be tested with the truth of the Holy Bible. Many of these false prophets may actually believe that what they are doing is divinely ordained. This makes them even harder to expose. Nevertheless, Christians must seek them out and expose their false teachings before they spread. In many ways these false prophets are more dangerous than cult leaders, because they do not have to rely on

personal charisma to maintain control of their group. Once put into words, a false set of teachings can spread rapidly and secretly across our society. Suddenly even before Christians can realize, there is no longer one group but hundreds of small groups emerging everywhere. As the frontline warriors in the army of light, we must be ever diligent.

E. THE TACTICS FOR A CAMPAIGN INTO THE WORLD

For the better part of the past two centuries, the Christian missionary effort in the world has been overshadowed by world events and the battles between secular ideologies. Though much success was nevertheless achieved through the sacrifices of undermanned and financially strapped missionary groups, Christianity's victories were mainly by the grace of the Lord. The churches sent a few fishermen, and the Lord brought to them countless thousands of people hungering for life. Now that we Christians have matured and the people of this world are more trapped by evil, we must become more powerful servants of the Lord. The campaign to rescue the world from the grasp of evil must be fought and won by a united missionary army that no longer just receives the grace of the Lord but also fights for goodness and truth. Only through unity and organization can Christians maximize their limited resources for the many tasks at hand.

In these last days, the armies of darkness are entrenched everywhere, and thus the first thing Christians must do is to identify the location, strength, and characteristics of the enemy whom we are trying to save. In this task, the Christian missionary army needs experts who continuously study and gather information on the activities of other religious groups and cults across the world. At times, information may have to be gathered at some risk through personal contact with foreign cultures. This information about the world is essential both in the long-range planning of how to organize and train the missionaries, and in the tactical deployment of missionary groups as new battlefields or engagement opportunities emerge.

The organization of the missionary army must not only take into account the battles that will be fought but also our precious warriors who are doing the fighting. Of the utmost importance is the spiritual safety of our missionaries. Any missionary facing spiritual weakness must be quickly pulled back to the shelter and love of the Church. Second, the lives of the missionaries must be treated as precious gifts of the Lord. It is a natural tendency for the most dedicated to want to charge into the heat of battle and sacrifice themselves. Thus, it must be the responsibility of the mature Christian leaders to safeguard not only the spirits but also the bodies of their troops. If there must be Christian martyrs, then they should be in battles to serve the Lord's will. Even as the angry mobs of this world surround us or the execution squads of tyrants approach us, if we have acted in accordance with the Holy Spirit in us, then victory is ours no matter how everything momentarily appears in the world.

The training of the new missionary army must be advanced beyond traditional approaches. Throughout the centuries, missionaries, according to Paul's instruction, have wielded the Word as a sword. However, most of them have merely revealed the Word and many who saw the truth bowed to the greatness of the Lord. Now we must train our warriors to actually use the Word to cut into the works of evil. We must train our missionaries to expose the lies of the false prophets, bring clarity to the spiritually stubborn, and defend against the attacks of the armies of darkness. Our missionaries must now understand how the enemy thinks and what the enemy plans to do. This includes not only the men who are controlled or influenced by evil but also the chief servant of evil, Satan himself. Our missionaries must now understand all the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy. This understanding should only be pursued by the spiritually strong, pure, and mature, for knowledge about evil makes one very vulnerable to evil. Thus, for much of Christian history, even the most devoted of Christians were shielded by the Lord from such knowledge. Those who wish to join this new missionary army on this campaign should examine the inner reaches of their spirits and present it to the Lord. As in the days of Gideon, the Lord will call the right warriors to battle.

The tactics for deploying missionary forces should first permit the freedom of individual initiative, for Christians are moved by the Spirit. In the end, this is an army of brothers and sisters, not slaves. The imperativeness of the campaign in these last days demands that we engage the enemy on all fronts across the world. In this engagement there are three major types of terrain for battle. The first type of terrain is formed by the democratic free societies of the Americas, Europe, and parts of Asia. The conflict against the armies of evil in this terrain is effectively open. Both sides possess freedom of mobility and the ability to draw from indigenous resources. The general tactic for conflict in open terrain is to be able to maneuver forces so that one is always on the offensive. Victory in the offensive is achieved through the massing of force to overwhelm the opposition.

From a missionary standpoint this means that a campaign into democratic free societies must be conducted in an organized and comprehensive manner. First, centers must be established with the help of local churches to facilitate organization, and a primary service facility must be established to coordinate travel. With the help of experts at these bases, an army of missionaries can then be sent out to different locations for days and even weeks. The deployment of the missionary army in open terrain can be by several means. First, a full division of thousands of missionaries can descend upon a city to literally sweep through door to door to collect the spiritually lazy or confused. Those collected must then be lead into the hands of the priests (shepherds). A dozen divisions can cover most of the population centers in a country within months. Second, hundreds of missionary battalions (teams of a few hundred missionaries) can be sent out across the land to engage centers of other religions and ideologies. This engagement may start through meetings with their organization's leaders or through approaching individual members. Third, the missionary army can be spread thinly across the society like a net. Individual pairs of missionaries in this action would be looking for areas of opportunity and enemy secret entrenchment. Some may find secret cults while others may find false prophets trying to spread their lies. Upon identification, surrounding forces can then be concentrated on those points.

When engaging the force of opposition, a missionary group should seek to engulf the enemy to maximize intensity if there is vastly greater force. If there is marginally greater force, the group should maintain the frontline and push the enemy into a poor position. If there is equal force concentration, then the attack should drive a wedge into the enemy and conquer them while they are divided. Finally, if the enemy seems to be of greater force, then our forces should seize a position, such as high ground or a narrow pass in a spiritual sense, where not all their forces can be simultaneously brought into the attack. In our campaign, the assessment of force strength is not only the number of the enemy seeking to oppose us but also their spiritual strength. A large mass of weak, apathetic people can be easily engulfed in a spiritual sense. Alternatively, a moderate number of fanatics can present a force that requires a missionary group to seek a strategic position. Strategic position on this battlefield implies an engagement where Christian powers can be concentrated on enemy leaders as they approach. If the arguments of enemy leaders can be defeated, then perhaps the momentum of their charge will be diminished. A wedge attack in missionary efforts is one which exploits the internal differences of opposing religions and ideological groups. By preventing them from attacking as a unified force, each division's weakness can then be attacked.

Today, countries such as China, which has a secular authoritarian regime, offer a harsh dynamic terrain for missionary campaigns. Missionary forces can only be brought in on a limited basis and in a nonthreatening manner. Regional organization centers are severely limited because they are viewed as a threat to state authority. Mobility in the country is limited, and the activities are strictly monitored. Since there are very few Christians present locally, the ability to strengthen one's force once in the terrain is very limited. To campaign successfully in this terrain, both missionaries and priests must be sent into the terrain, working in a close relation. The specially selected priests must be able to tend to fledgling flocks and identify the right future priests for training. Operations in this terrain hinge on the missionary leaders' ability to understand the dynamics of the terrain. This means that they must understand

the changes in political moods, the limitations and paranoia emerging from an unstable government, and the characteristics and fears of the people. Missionaries in such a terrain must focus on the fact that they are merely delivering the Word, which threatens no regime. Despite observed oppression, Christians are not to encourage rebellion and most definitely not armed conflicts with the state. Instead, we are to relieve suffering as much as we can and pray for the deliverance of people from bondage. While our bodies may belong to the state, our spirits in Christ will always belong to our Father in Heaven. If Christians in charge of another state choose to stop oppression by force, then it must be strictly by the guidance of God. In that case, we are no longer missionaries but the physical instruments of the Lord.

Fighting in this harsh terrain is a test of perseverance; gateways into new regimes may open up momentarily and the opportunity must be seized. Futile thrusts must be avoided to conserve energy for the right engagement at the right time. Difficult government leaders must be negotiated with, in humility and patience. Despite these challenges, a harsh terrain may in many ways be a gift from the Lord for the most dedicated Christians. Such a terrain has often also served to retard the advances of false religions, for unlike Christianity, most false religions must rely on conflict rather than truth to retain power. In their efforts to resist the authority of a secular government, they are often crushed. Can any other religion exist without temples, without leaders, and without laws? Only Christianity can flourish in such harsh environments, for it lives in the hearts of men.

The most dangerous terrain for missionaries is in those lands where the people are openly hostile to Christian presence. Sometimes this hostility is motivated by a fear of foreign cultures, especially in the most primitive of locations. Other times this hostility is organized by an indigenous religious or ideological presence that preaches violence. The first challenge for engagement in this terrain is penetration in the face of resistance. One approach to penetration is open engagement along the borders with continued intensity and probes into enemy points of weakness. This does not mean that we exchange violence with violence. Instead, the missionary

army can adopt a preach and move strategy in which the population along the borders is exposed to the Word, but the physical army and police forces of the enemy are evaded. As regions are brought into the Christian body, the tactics must switch to covert engagement, for one is now operating in enemy-controlled territory. The covertness begins with those new Christians in the hostile terrain keeping their presence a secret from the authorities. From their ranks, missionaries can then be sent forth to first save those who are willing to listen. These missionaries should only be given a limited knowledge of the identities of other Christians in case of capture. They could operate in small cells of perhaps no more than a dozen people.

Even with the best of training and the most careful of actions, missionaries will be captured and killed to join the ranks of those first to rise beside Christ. Yet, the intensity of the campaign must be maintained. To accomplish this, a two echelon tactical deployment concept can be used in which missionaries from the second echelon are rapidly deployed to strengthen internal and boundary regions where comrades have been lost. The second echelon also serves as a relief mechanism for the tired and hurt. Christian missionaries must never be forced to engage the enemy; if they feel spiritually or physically weak, they should fall back not to shame, but to love. The captured Christians, like those in the first century, are given a unique opportunity to deliver the Word straight to those most corrupted by evil. We must pray that the Holy Spirit strengthens them every step of the way to do God's will. Though the hostile terrain may sadden us with many losses, it actually presents less spiritual threat to our missionaries. The hostility of confrontation may in many ways strengthen our faith and our reliance on the Lord. A Christian can only find the courage to join this campaign and the constitution to endure the suffering through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, when the dust of battle has settled for the moment, the surviving members of the missionary army and the rest of the Christian realm must mourn. No matter how short a period any of our fellow Christians are spiritually separated from us, there is sadness. This sadness is comforted by the fact that the day of Christ our

Lord's return is near. With Him will come the finest of our fellow Christians. On that day, the armies of darkness will be defeated and we will be one in Christ and in love. In time, evil, the true enemy, will be defeated, and God will live with us in a new Jerusalem descending from Heaven.

F. CARING FOR THE SUFFERING

In our fight to oppose the forces of evil and to rescue the people of this world, we must always remember that we are fighting not because we hate the armies of darkness, but because we love our brothers and sisters. This love has both a spiritual and physical dimension. Though the Lord may at times require people to suffer for their spiritual growth or the growth of others, we must always pray for that suffering to end quickly. If the Lord permits, we must also try to relieve all suffering, even among our enemies. In this effort, we must pray and try to make every church and every missionary camp a refuge for the hurt, hungry, and endangered. This tradition of sanctuary has long been practiced, though with varying dedication, by churches throughout history. When the Church influenced the actions of kings, the authority of the Church to grant sanctuary was state recognized. Today, most churches can only help the hurt and hungry, but not those persecuted by the state. Yet, some churches are not even opening their doors to the hurt and hungry. In helping the persecuted, few churches are pressing the limits of their authority within the state.

The offering of our churches as sanctuary should not be based on the medieval principle of testing who can physically reach the grounds of the church or abbey. Instead, the help should extend out to all, Christians and non-Christians, who want help from the Lord and His servants in finding peace first in body and mind, and then hopefully in spirit. However, it should be clear that they are turning to our Lord for help, and not to us as people who might have more than they. This does not mean that they must become Christians or even learn about Christianity. In the case where people in need will not even honor our church as the house of our Lord, the help

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extended to them should perhaps be based on the individual love of Christians and not on unified church actions. With this position, we must emphasize that all children, especially orphans, inherently belong to the Lord and demand both the individual and united love of Christians to relieve their suffering. Offering our church as sanctuary is very different from missionaries seeking to help others without their asking. In the latter case, the missionaries must prioritize their limited resources to maximize this expression of love and balance it with the highest expression of love in delivering the Word. Missionaries must also remember that it is God and love that bring people to the Body of Christ. At no point should physical help be exchanged for willingness to receive the Word. Such is not love, and true faith cannot be built on selfish activities between the giver and receiver.

G. A SPECIFIC PLAN TO RESCUE THE PEOPLE OF ISLAM

The Al-Qur'an is the single foundation of Islamic belief. Arabic legend tells of the Archangel Gabriel coming to Muhammad in a dream at a cave in Mount Hira during the month of Ramadan. From that point Muhammad would proclaim to receive the word of God in the form of Qur'an chapters periodically over the following 23 years until his death. 114 chapters were received and set to words. In Muhammad's first thirteen years of this experience, he wrote 93 chapters on matters of faith. Driven from his home town of Mecca by pagan persecutors, he fled to Medina where he wrote 21 chapters on matters of action before his death. These chapters were then intermixed to form the current Qur'an. All dedicated Muslims believe that Muhammad's writings are the final words from God, offering completeness to initial teachings given to Moses and Jesus. This makes the Qur'an immutable through the generations and provides a fixed target for the Christian mission. If the Qur'an is found to not be the word of God, then all that is Islam crumbles. At that point, Muslims by their own understanding must turn to the one

earlier prophet, Jesus. At that point, Christians must gently welcome a confused people into the true Church.

If the Qur'an is not the word of God, then it could be an intellectual fabrication by Muhammad who had learned a great deal about Christianity and Judaism as a merchant. Alternatively, the Lord may have permitted Satan to trick Muhammad into false belief. The latter case, which has been implied by some in the Christian realm, is a difficult argument to prove since there are no prophecies in the Qur'an to reveal that Muhammad was a false prophet. The Qur'an contains no history of the Arabic people to reflect the plan of God. The Qur'an contains no discussions of miracles, which reveal the glory of God. It is simply a book of intellectual arguments and explanations. If these arguments are indeed the truth of God, they should agree with and complement the teachings of Jesus in the gospels. Muhammad proclaimed that Jesus was truly a prophet of God, and thus Jesus' teachings are affirmed to be true. Based on this position, the Qur'an can only reflect Jesus' teachings and provide additional teachings, but never contradict. Since Moses is also recognized as a true prophet, the Qur'an must agree with the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. With these conclusions, a Christian empowered with the Word can expose the false teachings of the Qur'an. Unfortunately, for centuries Christians were not mature enough to apply the fullness of the Word, for the truth was hidden in parables for the mature. In these last days, Christians must find the maturity to defeat incorrectness.

What may make this battle easier is the recognition that there is a pattern of paranoia and objectives in Muhammad's literary creation. This pattern is not fully captured in basic Muslim duties. However, it is blatantly obvious in the Qur'an. The following presentation offers a starting effort in identifying specific elements of Muhammad's pattern as interrelated central themes of the Qur'an. Amidst the repetitive verses in the Qur'an, the focus always turns back to these themes. With each supporting verse, Muhammad's use of fear, lies, and pride as well as his own fears and paranoia become clear. If these themes are countered by Christian arguments, all of the Qur'an will collapse.

Exposing the Incorrectness of the Qur'an

QUR' AN THEME: Man is only one of God's many creations, and the angel Iblis (Satan) leads man to disbelief.

2:34 *"And when We said to the angels, Be submissive to Adam, they submitted, but Iblis (did not). He refused and was proud, and he was one of the disbelievers."*

2:98 *"Allah is an enemy of disbelievers. ... but the devils disbelieved, teaching men enchantment."*

4:76 *"Those who believe fight in the way of Allah, and those who disbelieve fight in the way of the devil. So fight against the friends of the devil; surely the struggle of the devil is ever weak."*

6:131 *"O community of jinn and men, did there not come to you messengers from among you, relating to you My messages and warning you of the meeting of this day of yours."*

7:11 *"We said to the angels: Make submission to Adam. So they submitted, except Iblis; he was not of those who submitted. He said: What hindered thee that thou didst not submit when I commanded thee? He said: I am better than he; Thou hast created me of fire, while him Thou didst create of dust."*

20:116 *"And when We said to the angels: Be submissive to Adam, they submitted except Iblis; he refused."*

38:27 *"And We created not the heaven and the earth and what is between them in vain."*

38:85 *"That I shall fill hell with thee [Iblis] and with all those among them who follow thee."*

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

The fundamental difference between Islam and Christianity is that there are at least three sentient races in this world according to Muhammad: the angels, man, and the jinn. The angels are supposed to submit to man, but Satan disobeyed and became the leader of the disbelievers. The jinn, a creature of Arabic folklore, is a race parallel to man and also under the authority of the messenger (Muhammad). Under this teaching, man is then not special, but lives strictly under the whim of God. There may not be that much difference between man and the rest of the animals in this world. God does with man as He pleases, and we can only hope for a little mercy.

Christians, however, know through Moses and Jesus that man is created in the image of God, and that the angels are beings of Heaven, serving God by looking after the growth of man. Though upon the coming of the Kingdom of God man will be above the angels, the angels were never asked to bow down to Adam, for Adam was only a child. Satan did rebel against God over man, but not because he was better as taught in Islam. Instead, Satan could not accept that God loved man so much that He would consider mankind His children. This relation between Father and children was forged with the sacrifice of Jesus. Upon this sacrifice, Satan and one third of the angels in Heaven rebelled and were cast to earth. These fallen angels have been wandering the earth for five hundred years before the appearance of Muhammad and could have given rise to the lore of jinn. Given the stories about the jinn, they were most certainly creatures of deception and darkness.

What is most important, we are the center of God's creation. This world is for our growth. The coming Kingdom of God is for us, and God will one day dwell among us. Some of us cannot see the love of the Father because we are immature. As a result, we fear God instead of loving Him, and we beg for mercy instead of embracing our positions in His family. The great danger of this misunderstanding is that the true relation between man and God is denied and the true nature of man's spirit is denied. Thus, man is weakened in his struggle against the evil growing within, and the power of the Holy Spirit cannot enter in force. We cannot explain the power of the

Holy Spirit and the voice of God in us to someone who has not experienced it. Thus, we must try to clarify understanding so that a spirit becomes willing to embrace a true relation with the Lord.

QUR'AN THEME: The Jews broke their covenant with God.

- 2:40 *"O Children of Israel, call to mind My favour which I bestowed on you and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I shall fulfill (My) covenant with you."*
- 2:83 *"And when We made a covenant with the Children of Israel. You shall serve none but Allah. And do good to (your) parents, and to the near of kin and to orphans and the needy, and speak good (words) to (all) men, and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate. Then you turned back except a few of you, and you are averse."*
- 3:186 *"And when Allah took a covenant from those who were given the Book: You shall explain it to men and shall not hide it. But they cast it behind their backs and took a small price for it."*
- 6:147 *"And to those who are Jews, We forbade every animal having claws and of oxen and sheep We forbade them the fat thereof, except such as was on their backs or the entrails of what was mixed with bones. This was a punishment We gave them on account of their rebellion, and We are surely Truthful"*
- 16:118 *"And to those who are Jews, We prohibited what We have related to thee already, and We did them no wrong, but they wronged themselves."*
- 62:5 *"The likeness of those who were charged with the Torah, then they observed it not, is as the likeness of the ass carrying books. ... Say: O you who are Jews, if you think that*

you are the favorites of Allah to the exclusion of other people then invoke death, if you are truthful."

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

As the descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham and his slave, the Arabic people of Islam must argue that the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's God-given heir, have forfeited their birthright. Else, they could only be the beggars at the table of the Jews. The Jews' rejection of Christianity presented an opportunity to make the above argument and elicit some support from the Christians. However, the above argument is very different from the Christian position on Jews. First, the Jewish dietary laws were given by the Lord to help shape their spirits when the Jews were His chosen people above all nations. Moses, himself, lived under this guidance, which is most certainly not a punishment. During the days before Jesus, the Jews were never required by the Lord to spread their religion, for their Book must be first completed by Jesus in order for it to be spread. Instead, the Jews were asked to stay pure by resisting foreign influence. Most important, despite the accusations of Muhammad, the Jews did not break their covenant with the Lord because of their inability to fulfill the laws of the Torah. God knew such laws could not be met, and thus sent Jesus to show them the meaning behind the laws. The Jews only needed to embrace the teachings of love for God and one another to obtain God's grace. They do not need be perfect and go to God. If their spirits grow a little in faith, love, and hope, God will come to them. Some Jews received this gift of love from God and became Christians. Most Jews, primarily of the Pharisees sect, rejected God's love, thus breaking the covenant. Yet, if later Jews, not fully exposed to Christianity, can still embrace the first covenant to either perfection or to the point that their spirits mature, God will still come to His first chosen people. Jesus, on the cross, forgave the Jews for their immaturity.

QUR'AN THEME: Muhammad is the prophet after Moses and Jesus who completed God's message.

- 2:87 *"And We indeed gave Moses that Book and We sent messengers after him one after another; and We gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear arguments and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. Is it then that whenever there came to you a messenger with what your souls desire not, you were arrogant?"*
- 2:92 *"And Moses indeed came to you with clear arguments."*
- 2:118 *"Indeed We have made the messages clear for a people who are sure."*
- 2:125 *"We enjoined Abraham and Ishmael, saying: Purify My House for those who visit (it) and those who abide (in it) for devotion."*
- 2:133 *"They (sons of Jacob) said: We shall serve thy God and the God of thy fathers, Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac, one God only, and to Him do we submit."*
- 2:176 *"Allah has revealed the Book with truth. And surely those who disagree about the Book go far in opposition."*
- 2:213 *"Mankind is a single nation. So Allah raised prophets as bearers of good news and as warners."*
- 2:246 *"When they said to a prophet of theirs: Raise up for us a king, that we may fight in the way of Allah. He said: May it not be that you will not fight if fighting is ordained for you?"*
- 2:285 *"We make no difference between His messengers."*

- 3:3 *"And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel aforetime, a guidance for the people, and He sent the Discrimination."*
- 3:18 *"Surely the (true) religion with Allah is Islam."*
- 4:69 *"And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger,"*
- 4:152 *"And those who believe in Allah and His messengers and make no distinction between any of them, to them He will grant their rewards."*
- 7:117 *"And We revealed to Moses: Cast thy rod. Then lo! it swallowed up their lies."*
- 7:143 *"And when Moses came at Our appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said: My Lord, show me Thyself so that I may look at Thee. He said: Thou canst not see Me: but look at the mountain; if it remains firm in place, then wilt thou see Me. So when his Lord manifested His glory to the mountain, He made it crumble and Moses fell down in a swoon. Then when he recovered, he said: Glory be to Thee! I turn to Thee, and I am the first of the believers. ... And We ordained for him in tablets admonition of every kind and clear explanation of all things."*
- 9:128 *"Certainly a Messenger has come to you from among yourselves."*
- 10:2 *"Is it a wonder to the people what We have revealed to a man from among themselves."*
- 10:47 *"And for every nation there is a messenger."*
- 10:90 *"Then Pharaoh and his hosts followed them for oppression and tyranny, till, when drowning overtook him, he said: I believe that there is no god but He in Whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am of those who submit."*

- 10:108 *"O people, the Truth has indeed come to you from your Lord; so whoever goes aright, goes aright only for the good of his own soul; and whoever errs, errs only against it. And I am not a custodian over you."*
- 16:36 *"And certainly We raised in every nation a messenger, saying: Serve Allah and shun the devil."*
- 25:7 *"And they say: What a Messenger is this? He eats food and goes about in the markets. Why has not an angel been sent down to him to be a warner with him?"*
- 25:32 *"And those who disbelieve say: Why has not the Qur'an been revealed to him all at once? Thus, that We may strengthen thy heart thereby and We have arranged it well in arranging."*
- 27:75 *"And there is nothing concealed in heaven and the earth but it is in a clear book."*
- 33:40 *"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things."*
- 42:51 *"And it is not vouchsafed to a mortal that Allah should speak to him, except by revelation or from behind a veil, or by sending a messenger and revealing by His permission what He pleases."*
- 98:1 *"Those who disbelieve from among the People of the Book and the idolaters could not have been freed till clear evidence came to them. A Messenger from Allah, reciting pure pages,"*

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

Moses was indeed a prophet or messenger of God. Also, he was given complete authority over God's chosen people, far above any king. Jesus, whether one is able to see Him as the Lord or not, is a messenger of God who completed Moses' teachings to bring the people to full maturity. Both Moses and Jesus were sent to God's chosen people, the Jews. To no other nation did God send such messengers. We Christians are like dogs eating the scraps from the master's table that His children did not want. It is only by God's grace and the sacrifice of Jesus that we are also received as His children. Would the people of Islam jump to the master's table and push aside the Jews? To do this, their messenger must be true. Yet, when Moses elevated his people as the Chosen of God, and Jesus elevated His people as the children and friends of God, Muhammad reduced his people as slaves to God's unknown whim. If this is completing God's message, then man has truly fallen. If all messengers are equal in the eyes of God, then is it not better to follow Jesus and be God's children? If all mankind is one and Islam could be spread to all nations, then is it not also acceptable for the Arabic people to embrace the teachings of Jesus first, without addressing Jesus' position? In assessing the teachings of the messengers, the true word of God stands no matter whether or not the people can understand it, and the false teachings remain false no matter how many times the messenger claims it as true or repeats the argument. Such claims only convince those who do not really want to understand.

QUR'AN THEME: The disbelievers are deceptive, and their chastisement will be great.

2:79 *"Woe! then to those who write the Book with their hands then say, This is from Allah; so that they may take for it a small price. So woe! to them for what their hands write and woe! to them for what they earn. And they say: Fire will not touch us but for a few days."*

- 2:86 *"These are they who buy the life of this world for the Here-after, so their chastisement shall not be lightened, nor shall they be helped."*
- 2:88 *"Nay, Allah has cursed them on account of their unbelief; so little it is that they believe. ... so Allah's curse is on the disbelievers. ... And there is an abasing chastisement for the disbelievers."*
- 2:114 *"And who is more unjust than he who prevents (men) from the mosques of Allah, from His name being remembered therein, and strives to ruin them?"*
- 2:126 *"And whoever disbelieves, I shall grant him enjoyment for a short while, then I shall drive him to the chastisement of the Fire. And it is an evil destination."*
- 2:165 *"Yet there are some men who take for themselves objects of worship besides Allah."*
- 2:206 *"Pride carries him off to sin - so hell is sufficient for him."*
- 2:284 *"And whether you manifest what is in your minds or hide it, Allah will call you to account according to it."*
- 3:11 *"Say to those who disbelieve: You shall be vanquished, and driven together to hell; and evil is the resting place."*
- 3:28 *"Say: Whether you hide what is in your hearts or manifest it, Allah knows it."*
- 3:90 *"Those who disbelieve and die while they are disbelievers, the earth full of gold will not be accepted from one of them."*

- 3:150 *"We will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve because they set up with Allah that for which He was sent down no authority."*
- 3:177 *"We grant them respite only that they may add to their sins."*
- 4:46 *"But Allah has cursed them on account of their disbelief, so they believe not but a little."*
- 4:144 *"O you who believe, take not the disbelievers for friends rather than the believers."*
- 6:1 *"Praise be to Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth, and made darkness and light. Yet those who disbelieve set up equals to their Lord."*
- 6:39 *"And those who rejected Our messages are deaf and dumb, in darkness. Whom Allah pleases He leaves in error. And whom He pleases He places on the right way."*
- 6:126 *"So whomsoever Allah intends to guide, He expands his breast for Islam, and whomsoever He intends to leave in error, he makes his breast straight and narrow as though he were ascending upwards. Thus does Allah lay uncleanness on those who believe not."*
- 7:36 *"And those who reject Our messages and turn away from them haughtily - these are the companions of the Fire."*
- 7:40 *"Those who reject Our messages and turn away from them haughtily, the doors of heaven will not be opened for them, nor will they enter the Garden until the camel pass through the eye of the needle."*
- 7:177 *"Evil is the likeness of the people who reject Our messages and wrong their own souls. He whom Allah guides*

is on the right way; and he whom He leaves in error they are the losers."

7:183 *"And whose who reject Our messages - We lead them (to destruction) step by step from whence they know not."*

8:38 *"Say to those who disbelieve, if they desist, that which is past will be forgiven them; and if they return, then the example of those of old has already gone. And fight with them until there is no more persecution, and all religions are for Allah."*

9:1 *"A declaration of immunity from Allah and His Messenger to those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement. "*

9:5 *"So when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters, wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush."*

9:80 *"Even if thou ask forgiveness for them seventy times, Allah will not forgive them. This is because they disbelieve in Allah and His Messenger."*

10:100 *"And it is not for any soul to believe except by Allah's permission. And He casts uncleanness on those who will not understand."*

11:18 *"And who is more unjust than he who forges a lie against Allah? These will be brought before their Lord."*

13:11 *"Surely Allah changes not the condition of a people until they change their own condition. And when Allah intends evil to a people, there is no protector."*

- 13:27 *"And those who disbelieve say: Why is not a sign sent down to him by the Lord? Say: Allah leaves in error whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn to Him."*
- 14:16 *"Hell is before him and he is given to drink of boiling water; He drinks it little by little and is not able to swallow it; and death comes to him from every quarter, yet he dies not. And before him is vehement chastisement."*
- 15:3 *"Leave them to eat and enjoy themselves, and let false hope beguile them, for they will soon know."*
- 17:8 *"And We have made hell a prison for the disbelievers."*
- 17:97 *"And he whom Allah guides, he is on the right way; and he whom He leaves in error, for them thou wilt find no guardians besides Him."*
- 17:107 *"Say: Believe in it or believe not. Surely those who are given the knowledge before it, fall down prostrate on their faces, when it is recited to them."*
- 18:29 *"And if they cry for water, they are given water like molten brass, scalding their faces."*
- 25:4 *"And those who disbelieve say: This is nothing but a lie, which he has forged, and other people have helped him at it. So indeed they have brought an iniquity and a falsehood."*
- 28:59 *"And thy Lord never destroyed the towns, until He had raised in their metropolis a messenger, reciting to them Our messages, and We never destroyed the towns except when their people were iniquitous."*
- 32:13 *"And if We had pleased, We could have given every soul its guidance."*

24:7 *"And those who disbelieve say: Shall we show to you a man who informs you that, when you are scattered the utmost scattering, you will then be in a new creation? Has he forged a lie against Allah or is there madness in him? Nay, those who believe not in the Hereafter are in torment and in far error."*

35:37 *"And therein they cry for succour: Our Lord, take us out! we will do good deeds other than those which we used to do! Did We not give you a life long enough, for him to be mindful who would mind? And there came to you the warner. So taste; because for the iniquitous there is no helper."*

37:64 *"It is a tree that grows in the bottom of hell- Its produce is as it were the heads of serpents. Then truly they will eat of it and fill their bellies with it. Then surely they shall after it drink of boiling water. Then their return is surely to the flaming Fire."*

46:9 *"Say: I am not the first of the messengers, and I know not what will be done with me or with you. I follow naught but that which is revealed to me, and I am but a plain warner."*

66:10 *"Allah sets forth an example for those who disbelieve the wife of Noah and the wife of Lot."*

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

The pagan people of the Arabian region that Muhammad focused on converting had resisted Judaism and Christianity for centuries. The laws of Judaism were too difficult to follow, and the spiritual understanding of Christianity was too hard to grasp. Thus, a strategy of using fear to convince them to join Islam was developed. However, we Christians must argue that fear does not lead to spiritual growth and salvation. Fear in Islam is established with an emphasis on the punishment in hell, expressed in a physically graphic manner far greater than it is portrayed in Christianity. Then,

it is made known that conversion is one's choice, and that one simply has to fall on one's knees and accept. The converts are assured that they are the chosen of the Lord, for the Lord could save everyone but He chose a few. To the rest, the Lord shows no mercy. In fact, the Lord leads them to destruction after letting them prosper a while, and orders His people to destroy them. With these teachings, God is portrayed as having no love for man, and the people of Islam likewise should have no love for humanity. Muslims are messengers who would let people sin and die in their sins without concern. This is in direct opposition to Christian understanding and Christian love.

As a people of laws and not of understanding, Muhammad warned against the influence of the pagans who corrupted so many Jews in ancient times. Though exposure is necessary when delivering the message of fear, friendship with those who would not convert is forbidden in Islam. He further warned that such people will hinder Muslims from going to the mosque and perhaps generate false messages to confuse Muslims. Christians, on the other hand, are encouraged to befriend everyone, for the truth is not vulnerable to corruption and love is the way to bring people to God. In the end Muhammad was also practical, for he realized that the forces of the disbelievers were strong at times. Thus, a compromise can be arranged in the form of a treaty at which point tolerance is permitted. Christians are not of this world and must follow faith. We can never tolerate paganism. Our efforts to save the lost should transcend any practical worldly treaty.

QUR'AN THEME: Jewish and Christian arguments against Islam must be opposed.

2:111 *"And they say: None shall enter the Garden except he who is a Jew, or the Christians. These are their vain desires. Say: Bring your proof if you are truthful."*

2:116 *"And they say: Allah has taken to Himself a son - glory be to Him! Rather, whatever is in the heavens and earth His. All are obedient to Him."*

- 2:120 *"And the Jews will not be pleased with thee, nor the Christians, unless thou follow their religion. Say: Surely Allah's guidance, that is the (perfect) guidance. And if thou follow their desires after the knowledge that has come to thee thou shalt have from Allah no friend, nor helper."*
- 2:135 *"And they say: Be Jews or Christians, you will be on the right course. Say: Nay, (we follow) the religion of Abraham, the upright one, and he was not one of the polytheists. Say: We believe in Allah and (in) that which has been revealed to us, and (in) that which was revealed to Abraham, and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and (in) that which was given to Moses and Jesus, and (in) that which was given to the prophets from their Lord, we do not make any distinction between any of them"*
- 2:253 *"And We gave clear arguments to Jesus son of Mary, and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. And if Allah had pleased, those after them would not have fought one with another after clear arguments had come to them, but they disagreed."*
- 3:58 *"The likeness of Jesus with Allah is truly as the likeness of Adam. He created him from dust, then said to him, Be, and he was."*
- 3:66 *"Abraham was not a Jew not a Christian, but he was (an) upright (man), a Muslim; and he was not one of the polytheists."*
- 4:157 *"And for their saying: We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of Allah, and they killed him not, nor did they cause his death on the cross, but he was made to appear to them as such."*
- 4:171 *"O People of the Book, exceed not the limits in religion not speak anything about Allah, but the truth. The Messiah,*

Jesus, son of Mary, is only a messenger of Allah ... Far be it from His glory to have a son. To him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth."

- 5:14 *"And with those who say, We are Christians, We made a covenant, but they neglected a portion of that whereof they were reminded so We stirred up enmity and hatred among them to the day of Resurrection. And Allah will soon inform them of what they did."*
- 5:18 *"And the Jews and the Christians say: We are the sons of Allah and His beloved ones. Say: Why does He chastise you for your sins? Nay, you are mortals from among those He has created. He forgives whom He pleases and chastises whom He pleases."*
- 5:75 *"The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a messenger; messengers before him had indeed passed away."*
- 5:101 *"O you who believe, ask not about things which if made known to you would give you trouble; and if you ask about them when the Qur'an is being revealed, they will be made known to you. Allah pardons this; and Allah is Forgiving, Forbearing. A people before you indeed asked such questions, then became disbelievers therein."*
- 5:116 *"And when Allah will say: O Jesus, son of Mary, didst thou say to men, Take me and my mother for two gods besides Allah? He will say: Glory be to Thee! it was not for me to say what I had no right to (say)."*
- 6:50 *"Say: I say not to you, I have with me the treasures of Allah, nor do I know the unseen, nor do I say to you that I am an angel; I follow only that which is revealed to me."*
- 6:102 *"Wonderful Originator of the heavens and the earth! How could He have a son when He has no consort?"*

- 10:3 *"There is no intercessor except after His permission."*
- 10:68 *"They say: Allah has taken a son to Himself. Glory be to Him! He is the Self-sufficient. ... Those who forge a lie against Allah will not succeed."*
- 16:51 *"And Allah has said: Take not two gods. He is only one God: So Me alone should you fear."*
- 17:88 *"Say: If men and jinn should combine together to bring the like of this Qur'an, they could not bring the like of it, though some of them were aiders of others."*
- 17:111 *"And say: Praise be to Allah! Who has not taken to Himself a son, and Who has not a partner in the kingdom, and Who has not a helper because of weakness; and proclaim His greatness, magnifying Him."*
- 21:29 *"And whoever of them should say, I am a god besides Him, such a one We recompense with hell."*
- 29:50 *"And they say: Why are not signs sent down upon him from his Lord? Say: Signs are with Allah only, and I am only a plain warner. Is it not enough for them that We have revealed to thee the Book which is recited to them?"*
- 39:4 *"If Allah desired to take a son to Himself, He could have chosen those He pleased out of those whom He has created."*
- 43:59 *"He [Jesus] was naught but a servant on whom We bestowed favor and We made him an example for the Children of Israel; And if we pleased, We could make among you angels to be (Our) vice-gerents in the land."*

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

Indeed, the whole world was created by God and belongs to Him. However, does not a sculpture created by a man belong to

him as a child belongs to him? Yet, why does a man treat his child as a son while he does what he pleases with the sculpture? He can surely have another child, perhaps easier than for him to carve another sculpture. The reason why the child is precious is because the child is like him. Though not as strong and powerful, his life essence dwells in the child and the child extends his life. Not constrained to the body, a child of Heaven flows spiritually into the Father and the Father's spirit flows into him until the line between the two no longer exists. To say that God is satisfied with His creations and does not want such a child is an insult to His nature, and to say that God cannot beget such a child is an insult to His powers. As Christians, we know that God has begotten a precious Son who came to us as Jesus. Jesus is not the Father, and Christians are not polytheists. However, the Father created all things through His Son and for His Son. Then, He gave His Son authority over all things.

Once such a precious child has been created, would God not want more children to form a family? Would He then not create children using His Son as the model and the guide? This is the purpose for creating man and this world through Jesus. It is taught that all of us are like gods for we are God's children. Muslims proclaim that the Qur'an is the perfect truth, yet does that truth bring the spirit to life as the truth of Jesus? Muslims proclaim that the events of Jesus' sacrifice were faked, but without the sacrifice, how could the relation with God through the Holy Spirit be formed? Perhaps Muslims do not hear the voice of God in them and feel the power of God traveling through them. Abraham would indeed be Muslim if it were the true religion. However, the flaws of Islam have been shown. Muslims claim that their book is sufficient for belief, and that God no longer sends miracles. Indeed, the time of physical miracles was passing by the time Islam emerged, because the Christian Church had been established and the people should have been mature enough to receive the miracle of truth. But for the Muslims, we must ask whether they too were so mature that they did not need miracles, or whether that Muhammad's teachings were so easily accepted? Can a teaching that is so easily accepted by sinners actually fight the sin? If so, thousands of miracles would be occurring everyday in Islam as they do in Christianity. Far greater

than moving mountains, the Holy Spirit rushing into thousands of new Christians everyday are the true miracles. Though many Christians have made mistakes because of their immaturity through the ages, it is ultimately the truth of Jesus that shall stand against the critics of Christianity. The truth prepares all spirits for God. It raises the weak, who, with a sip of the medicine of love and truth, are able to receive God's grace. It cures and empowers the strong to be servants of the Lord. It offers the lost one last chance at redemption.

QUR'AN THEME: Special treatment is required for the People of the Book (Christians and Jews).

- 2:62 *"Surely those who believe, and those who are Jews and the Christians, and the Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and does good, they have their reward with their Lord, and there is no fear for them, nor shall they grieve."*
- 2:109 *"Many of the people of the Book wish they could turn you back into disbelievers after you have believed, out of envy from themselves, after truth has become manifest to them. But pardon and forgive, till Allah bring about His command."*
- 2:113 *"And the Jews say, The Christians follow nothing (good), and the Christians say, The Jews follow nothing (good), while they recite the (same) Book. So Allah will judge between them on the day of Resurrection in that wherein they differ."*
- 2:190 *"And fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you but be not aggressive. ... And kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out from where they drove you out, ... And fight them until there is no persecution, and religion is only for Allah."*

- 2:194 *"Whoever then acts aggressively against you, inflict injury on him according to the injury he was inflicted on you and keep your duty to Allah, and know that Allah is with those who keep their duty."*
- 3:109 *"And if the People of the Book had believed, it would have been better for them. Some of them are believers but most of them are transgressors."*
- 5:33 *"The only punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and strive to make mischief in the land is that they should be murdered, or crucified, or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides, or they would be imprisoned. This shall be a disgrace for them in this world, and in the Hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement, Except those who repent before you overpower them."*
- 5:51 *"O you who believe, take not the Jews and the Christians for friends. They are friends of each other. And whoever amongst you takes them for friends he is indeed one of them. Surely Allah guides not the unjust people."*
- 5:61 *"And if they had observed the Torah and the Gospel and that which is revealed to them from their Lord, they would certainly have eaten from above them and from beneath their feet. There is a party of them keeping to the moderate course; and most of them - evil is that which they do."*
- 5:69 *"Surely those who believe and those who are Jews and the Sabeans and the Christians - whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and does good - they shall have no fear nor shall they grieve."*
- 5:82 *"Thou wilt certainly find the most violent of people in enmity against the believers to be the Jews and the idolaters; and thou wilt find the nearest in friendship to the believers*

to be those who say, We are Christians. That is because there are priests and monks among them and because they are not proud."

29:46 *"And argue not with the People of the Book except by what is best, save such of them as act unjustly. But say: We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you, and our God and your God is One, and to Him we submit."*

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

The Christian military campaign against the people of Islam was in response to the Muslim Turk invasion of the Christian realm in strict violation of the Qur'an teachings. By their own laws, Christians have the right to fight without mercy to reclaim all that belonged to the Byzantine Empire centered at Constantinople. Yet, most Christians have matured beyond use of force. Wielding the Word is far more powerful than wielding steel. As Christians now seek peaceful entry into Jerusalem, Constantinople (Istanbul), Antioch, and other regions of the former Byzantine Empire, the people of Islam must recognize that we are entering lands that are rightfully ours. So, safe passage and freedom of travel should be ours. When Christian missionaries ask to work in the land of the Arabs, the people of Islam must remember that as long as we bear no aggression, we should receive no aggression. Our message should either provoke interest or rejection, but not anger. Muslims may consider those who leave Islam to join Christianity as betrayers of faith, but we Christians will take even the weakest of their people. The fact that the people of Islam would not befriend Christians is sad. However, we Christians will nevertheless care about the people of Islam. The instruction for the people of Islam to not debate the meaning of Christianity is unfortunate, for through gentle debate comes greater mutual understanding. Nevertheless, we Christians must ask for a little time to hear our caring arguments.

QUR'AN THEME: Follow Allah's simple requirements and enter the garden paradise after this life.

- 2:173 *"He has forbidden you only what dies of itself, and blood, and the flesh of swine, and that over which any other (name) than (than of) Allah has been invoked. Then whoever is driven by necessity, not desiring, nor exceeding the limits, no sin is upon him."*
- 2:177 *"Righteous is the one who believes in Allah, and the Last Day, and the angels and the Book and the prophets, and gives away wealth out of love for Him to the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask and to set slaves free and keeps up prayer and pays the poor-rate; the performers of their promise when they make a promise, and the patient in distress and affliction and in the time of conflict."*
- 2:185 *"The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was revealed ... he shall fast therein, and whoever is sick or on a journey, (he shall fast a like) number of days. And those who find it extremely hard may effect redemption by feeding a poor man."*
- 2:196 *"And accomplish the pilgrimage and the visit for Allah. But if you are prevented, (send) whatever offering is easy to obtain, and shave not your heads until the offering reaches its destination."*
- 2:217 *"They ask thee about fighting in the sacred month. Say: Fighting in it is a grave (offense)."*
- 2:219 *"They ask thee about intoxicants and games of chance. Say: In both of them is a great sin."*

- 2:221 *"And marry not the idolatresses until they believe; and certainly a believing maid is better than an idolatress even though she please you."*
- 2:229 *"Divorce may be (pronounced) twice; then keep (them) in good fellowship or let (them) go with kindness."*
- 2:261 *"And Allah multiplies (further) for whom He pleases."*
- 2:286 *"Our Lord, punish us not if we forget or make a mistake Our Lord, do not lay on us a burden as Thou didst lay on those before us."*
- 3:19 *"If they submit, then indeed they follow the right way; and if they turn back, thy duty is only to deliver the message. "*
- 3:27 *"Let not the believers take the disbelievers for friends rather than believers."*
- 3:84 *"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers."*
- 3:88 *"Accept those who repent after that and amend, for surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."*
- 3:102 *"And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited."*
- 3:117 *"O you who believe, take not for intimate friends other than your own people."*
- 3:155 *"And Allah gives life and causes death. And Allah is Seer of what you do. And if you are slain in Allah's way or you die, surely Allah's protection and His mercy are better than what they amass. And if you die or you are slain, to Allah you are gathered."*

- 3:166 *"And that He might know the hypocrites. And it was said to them: Come, fight in Allah's way, or defend yourselves."*
- 4:2 *"And give to the orphans their property."*
- 4:6 *"And whoever is rich, let him abstain, and whoever is poor let him consume reasonably."*
- 4:17 *"Repentance with Allah is only for those who do evil in ignorance then turn (to Allah) soon."*
- 4:34 *"So the good women are obedient, guarding the unseen as Allah has guarded."*
- 4:92 *"And a believer would not kill a believer except by mistake."*
- 4:93 *"And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his punishment is hell."*
- 5:38 *"And (as for) the man and the woman addicted to theft, cut off their hands as a punishment for what they have earned."*
- 5:45 *"And We prescribed to them in it that life is for life, and eye for eye, and nose for nose, and ear for ear, and tooth for tooth, and for wounds retaliation."*
- 5:57 *"O you who believe, take not for friends those who take your religion as a mockery and a sport, from among those who were given the Book before you and the disbelievers."*
- 8:15 *"O you who believe, when you meet those who disbelieve marching for war, turn not your backs to them. And whoso turns his back to them on that day - unless maneuvering for battle or turning to join a company - he indeed, incurs Allah's wrath and his refuge is hell. And an evil destination it is. So you slew them not but Allah slew them, and thou*

smotest not when thou didst smite {the enemy}, but Allah smote {him}."

8:58 *"And if thou fear treachery on the part of a people, throw back to them {their treaty} on terms of equality. Surely Allah loves not the treacherous."*

8:72 *"And if they seek help from you in the matter of religion, it is your duty to help them except against a people between whom and you there is a treaty."*

9:5 *"So when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters, wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush."*

9:7 *"So as long as they are true to you, be true to them."*

9:13 *"Will you not fight a people who broke their oaths and aimed at the expulsion of the Messenger?"*

9:95 *"They will swear by Allah to you when you return to them, so that you may leave them alone. So leave them alone. Surely they are unclean and their refuge is hell."*

11:9 *"And if We make man taste mercy from Us, then withdraw it from him, he is surely despairing, ungrateful. And if We make him taste a favor after distress had afflicted him, he says: The evils are gone away from me. Certainly he is exultant, boastful."*

11:38 *"And he began to make the ark. And whenever the chiefs of his people passed by him, they laughed at him. He said: If you laugh at us, surely we, too, laugh at you as you laugh at us."*

16:47 *"Your Lord is surely Compassionate, Merciful."*

- 16:61 *"And if Allah were to destroy men for their iniquity, He would not leave therein a single creature."*
- 16:97 *"Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We shall certainly make him live a good life, and We shall certainly give them their reward."*
- 16:102 *"Say: The Holy Spirit has revealed it from thy Lord with truth, that it may establish those who believe, and as a guidance and good news for those who submit."*
- 16:111 *"On the day when every soul will come pleading for itself, and every soul will be paid in full what it has done, and they will not be dealt with unjustly."*
- 17:33 *"And kill not the soul which Allah has forbidden except for a just cause."*
- 17:78 *"Keep up prayer from the declining of the sun till the darkness of the night, and the recital of the Qur'an at dawn. Surely the recital of the Qur'an at dawn is witnessed."*
- 22:39 *"Permission to fight is given to those on whom war is made, because they are oppressed."*
- 23:1 *"Successful indeed are the believers, Who are humble in their prayers, And who shun what is vain, And who act for the sake of purity, And who restrain their sexual passions."*
- 24:2 *"The adulteress and the adulterer flog each of them with a hundred stripes, and let not pity for them detain you from obedience to Allah."*
- 24:4 *"And those who accuse free women and bring not four witnesses flog them with eight stripes."*

- 24:6 *"And those who accuse their wives and have no witnesses except themselves, let one of them testify four times, bearing Allah to witness."*
- 24:31 *"And say to the believing women that they lower their gaze and restrain their sexual passions and do not display their adornment except what appears thereof. And let them wear their head coverings over their bosoms."*
- 24:33 *"And those of your slaves who ask for a writing of freedom, give them the writing, if you know any good in them, and give them of the wealth of Allah which He has given you."*
- 33:36 *"And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he surely strays off to manifest error."*
- 34:37 *"And it is not your wealth, nor your children, that bring you near to Us in rank; but whoever believes and does good."*
- 45:7 *"Woe to every sinful liar! Who hears the messages of Allah recited to him then persists in haughtiness, as though he had not heard them."*
- 48:16 *"Say to those of the dwellers of the desert who lagged behind: You will soon be called against a people of mighty prowess to fight against them until they submitted. Then if you obey, Allah will grant you a good reward; but, if you turn back as you turned back before, He will chastise you with a painful chastise."*
- 57:27 *"And as for monkery, they innovated it - We did not prescribe it to them - only to seek Allah's pleasure, but they did not observed it with its due observance. So We gave those of them who believed their reward, but most of them are transgressors."*

- 58:9 *"O you who believe, when you confer together in private, give not to each other counsel of sin and revolt and disobedience to the Messenger."*
- 60:1 *"O you who believe, take not My enemy and your enemy for friends."*
- 60:8 *"Allah forbids you not respecting those who fight you not for religion, nor drive you forth from your homes, that you show them kindness and deal with them justly. Surely Allah loves the doers of justice. Allah forbids you only respecting those who fight you for religion, and drive you forth from your homes and help (others) in your expulsion, that you make friends of them; and whoever makes friends of them, these are the wrongdoers."*
- 64:9 *"And whoever believes in Allah and does good, He will remove from him his evil and cause him to enter Gardens wherein rivers flow."*
- 64:11 *"No calamity befalls but by Allah's permission."*
- 67:12 *"Those who fear their Lord in secret, for them is surely forgiveness and a great reward."*
- 68:2 *"By the grace of thy Lord thou art not mad."*
- 107:2 *"That is the one who is rough to the orphan, And urges not the feeding of the needy. So woe to the praying ones, Who are unmindful of their prayer! Who do good to be seen, And refrain from acts of kindness!"*

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT:

The Jews were given God's perfect laws, which they could not meet or spiritually understand. So the laws brought death. The Christians are given God's truth, the embrace of which brought salvation. However, it seems that the people of Islam were given a

set of laws that are easily met, but lead to no defined purpose. The Jews' dietary requirements shape the spirit. The Muslims' dietary requirements seem to be simply an arbitrary testing that can be waived, if there is a pressing necessity. The obvious acts of goodness, such as helping the poor, taking care of orphans, freeing slaves, and dedication to prayer, are instructed. However, the instructions are for actions, and make no linkage to the quality of the spirit that is of primary importance. How is a spirit saved if he gives to the poor only out of legal requirements? God's laws for the Jews are not hindering the movement of their hearts. How is God served when a man prays at set times each day rather than when his spirit has a need to reach out to God? Given such neglect of the spirit, naturally the Islamic approach towards temptation is complete avoidance. Alcohol and gambling cannot be touched, and the beauty of women must be hidden. How weak Muslims must be, for a Christian's goal is to rise above temptations and in doing so gain spiritual strength. Christians can drink, but they are not to get drunk. Christians can gamble, but they are not to let gambling interfere with their mission to serve the Lord and their capacity to serve the Lord. Most certainly, Christians can appreciate the beauty of a woman without improper desires, and women are taught to present their true beauty as God's creation. Excessive jewelry and makeup hide true beauty. The laws of Islam have shown that Islam is of this world and not transcending this world. Their mission of delivering the message can be halted by treaty. While God will only take the most faithful and courageous of the Jews into His army, the people of Islam are all forced to fight and prohibited from retreating. To fight evil, the people are instructed to become evil themselves. What is won if one defeats the external evil only to welcome the evil within? While Christians are taught to love one another and thus not make war, the people of Islam are simply prohibited from making war against each other. We Christians have made many wars only to learn how inadequate our love is. Muslims, too, have made many wars only to learn that they are lost, for forgiveness by God as taught to them is only for the accidents. Perhaps God is indeed merciless to the Muslims, because they do not want to be His children.

H. A TIME TO FIGHT

Friends, in these three books we have journeyed from the pure embrace of our Father's love through Jesus, to an increased understanding of His perfect plan for the world, and onto the battlefield against evil. For some, the first book may have aided in their spiritual birth to become disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. I share in the rejoicing in Heaven. For my Christian brothers and sisters, the first book is also intended to help establish the goals and reasons for which we must fight, suffer, and perhaps even die. I cannot overemphasize the importance of continuously turning to the Word of God in the Holy Bible and to God in prayer as we grow in our lives as Christians.

The second book was developed to defend Christianity from the forces of evil that would use Christian history as an argument against Christianity. By describing Christian history not as a reflection of Christian accomplishments and failures, but as the fulfillment of God's perfect plan, I hope book two will also serve to strengthen our faith in that God's plan will be completed and that His Kingdom will come. Faith demands action, our willing participation in God's plan in love and in accordance with His will.

This third book explores how Christians can join the war against the forces of evil. Be assured that evil is real, and the armies that serve it are immense. However, have faith that this world down to the smallest pebble is under the Lord's plan, and is serving the battle to drive away evil from the spirits of man. The battles against evil must be waged, and Christians are the warriors on the frontline, preparing this world, by the grace God, for the arrival of Jesus and the entire army of light.

As we come to the conclusion of this book, a sadness comes over me because we are at the journey's end of this road which you and I have walked together. On the road ahead, we must individually discover in prayer the Lord's unique plan to use each one of us. Some of us may end up in distant lands. Others may come under assault in our own towns and homes. No matter where we are, always remember that the Lord walks with us, His Holy Spirit fills us with power, and His Word through the Holy Bible brings us

to maturity. No matter how far we Christians are apart, we will always be joined together by the Holy Spirit. The days ahead will be difficult and filled with much sadness. Many of our friends will face tremendous persecution so that all the spirits in this world will have one last chance to free themselves from evil, before Christ our Lord returns and places the undeniable truth in front of all.

In these last days of battle, we must take care not to judge success or failure by our own standards but by the Lord's will. We must recognize that not all people could be saved even though we must try to save all people with love and never lose hope. The lone pastor stoned by his betraying flock for staying true to the Word serves the Lord's will perhaps far better than the pastor who is adored by the kings of this world. The shrewd missionary who uses all his worldly knowledge to stay in the battle against evil serves the Lord's will perhaps better than the missionary who is eager to die as a martyr the moment he steps onto the battlefield. The Lord has already planned for when and how each of our missions in this world will end. When that moment comes, we must embrace it with faith. However, until that moment comes I beseech you all my friends to care for yourselves as you care for others. Please nourish your bodies and avoid unnecessary dangers. Please stay strong in the spiritual battle against evil. Please stay true in your love for the Lord and all mankind, and never doubt that we are cherished instruments of the Lord.