

# the **SERPENT** and the **DRAGON**

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It is easy to get misdirected in the battle

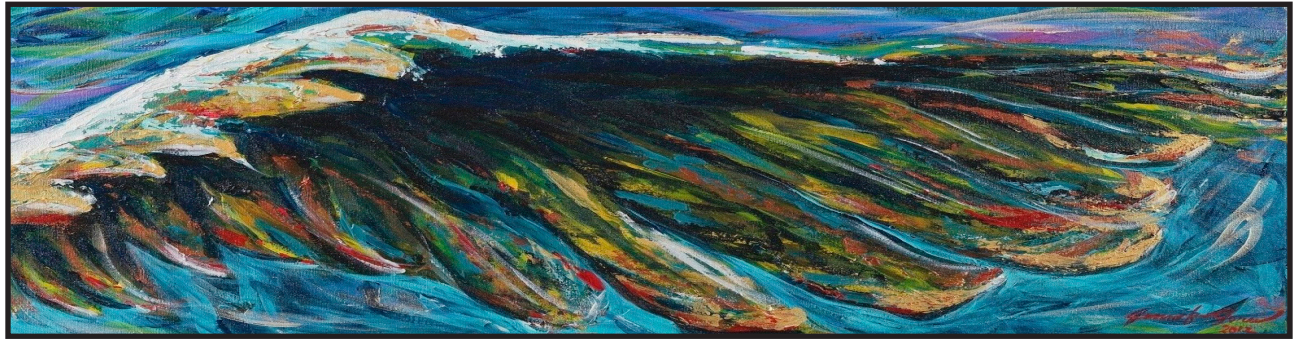


*And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war,*

*And they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.*

*And the great serpent of old who is called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him.*

Revelation 12:7-9



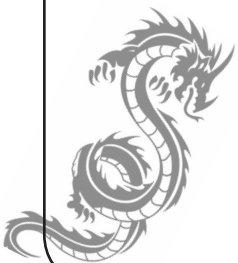
*Angel's Wing*

Many years ago April and I were in a serious conflict. It is not uncommon to have difficulties or challenges in marriage, but this stood above anything that had taken place before. As a result of our conflict, April took the car keys and left the house; I had no idea where she was headed. Sometime after she was gone, a strong fear came upon me suddenly and thoughts were racing through my mind that she was going to take her life. The enemy was roaring loudly in my head and fear arose with great strength. I recall walking to the window of our home, looking outside and speaking these simple words to the enemy, "You can't do this and I take authority over the spiritual forces that are assaulting my wife, you must stop now". I then spoke to the Father and requested that He send angelic intervention to help her at that very moment. I had such confidence from His manifested Presence that I knew the victory was assured. In the midst of this I heard a word from the Lord. He said, "I am healing a nation". I was perplexed that this word would come from the Father to my spirit in the midst of this terrible conflict. I will bring this word into focus at the end of the article.

When April arrived home, she was in a state of excitement, a huge contrast to the way she left. She relayed the same information I had heard from the enemy. She shared that she had been under a horrendous pressure to take her life, and had seriously considered it at that moment, not being of sound mind. She described her exact location as this war raged in her mind. Then an incredible thing took place. Her spiritual eyes were opened and she saw a heavenly angelic being with a sword in hand strike right through her. In an instant her mind was clear and the oppression was gone. She had no way of knowing what I had prayed and that God had accomplished a victory. To this day, we rejoice at heaven's deliverance and breakthrough from that battle. This was an eye opener for us concerning the spiritual conflict we were in; it made us very willing to allow the Father to do a deeper work in our lives that was rooted in removing our vulnerability to the strategies of the enemy.

So here lies a significant question I want to tackle in this article. Why do we plow ahead in what we perceive to be God's call upon our lives yet often see defeat instead of victory, or a lack of advancement when things should be moving forward? Why do dreams that have burned within our heart seem to be held back and instead confusion or disillusionment often prevail?

To answer this I need to expose the enemy as he is revealed in the Word of God. He is seen as both a serpent and a dragon in the Word. There is a very important revelation that I am going to bring forth.



We have to go back to the garden because this is where it all began. In the book of Genesis we are introduced to an enemy that was intent on stealing and destroying God's creation. This enemy is revealed in this context as a serpent. In Genesis we read,

**1. Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.**

Genesis 3:1a

The word **"crafty"** in the Hebrew also has the meaning, *'subtle'*. The enemy that appeared to Eve did not put out a full frontal assault. Instead, he subtly worked in her mind to deceive and trick her in her thinking. His first challenge to mankind was to first get her, and then us, to believe his thoughts and perspective and move humanity away from God's thoughts and perspective. So he challenged her thinking and tricked her into believing a lie. He said,

**1. Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?**

**2. And the woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;**

**3. But from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the Garden, God has said 'You shall not eat from it or touch it lest you die'.**

**4. And the serpent said to the woman, 'You surely shall not die'!**

**5. 'For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'.**

Genesis 3:1b-5

The first thing that the enemy attacked was the integrity of God's Word (truth). The serpent's question to Eve, **'has God said?'** was intended to move her mind

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# Where it All Began

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away from believing God's truth. I am going to assume that the discourse was longer than these few words, but the point is clear. The serpent tricked or deceived Eve to let go of the truth of God, and so be used to bring death into the world. This is always the strategy of the enemy in his working with mankind.

We can better understand this by looking at the original command given by God. He said,

**16. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;**

**17. But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.**

Genesis 2:16-17

The word **"evil"** in the Hebrew carries the meaning, *'bad, affliction, adversity, calamity, distress, misery, sorrow and trouble'*. Because of their obedience, mankind had the authority to keep all this mess out of the earth realm. The enemy knew this and was looking for a doorway that would give him access to the Father's creation. He found that doorway by gaining access to the mind of man. The serpent tricked Eve with his discourse and was able to move her mind in the direction of what would open up to her (a new knowledge of "good and evil") if she ate from the forbidden tree. The lure of knowing more than she knew was attractive to her. The enemy used this to get Eve to open the door to know **"evil"**, the very thing that God did not want any of us to know.



This strategy is still being used today. The enemy uses circumstances (typically bad ones) to get us to believe things that are contrary to God's truth. Like Eve, we are unaware that our mind has been tricked, we embrace a thought that has originated from him and death is given a doorway to manifest in our lives.

The consequence of Eve's deception and Adam's alignment with that deception is clearly explained in the book of Romans. It says,

**1. Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.**

Romans 5:12

Exactly what God said would happen did happen. Mankind spiritually died (physical death came later). For all of mankind, sin entered through this one choice, death came, and evil spread to the whole world. The entrance of death was hidden behind the embracing of the enemy's lie.

So, the serpent gained access to humanity through the trickery of the mind. He

helped Eve believe something by tricking or twisting the truth. Through the lure of being like God, she unknowingly rejected God's truth that was in His command to not eat from the tree. In ignorance, her mind changed and hidden behind this change of thinking was the doorway of death. As a result, the door of death opened, not only for her but also for all of mankind.

Our enemy still acts as the serpent with the same intentions. Paul reveals this when he said,

**3. But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.**

2 Corinthians 11:3

Now in our day, we still have to contend with the serpent and his crafty intentions to gain access to our minds. The moment we believe something that has originated from the enemy, immediately the doorway of death is opened and the enemy has something to work with in our personal life. This is the roadway that he uses again and again.



Our Bible begins with Genesis and reveals the beginnings of Earth and humanity. Here our enemy is revealed as a serpent. Our Bible ends with Revelation and the end of time is explained. But here the enemy is revealed differently.

Look at this prophetic picture that is revealed. It says,

**2. And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.**

**3. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.**

**4. And she gave birth to a Son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.**

Revelation 12:3-5

We have this amazing picture of the serpent now being revealed as a “dragon”. The Greek word that is translated here as “dragon” also means ‘serpent’. That is significant and I will explain why a little later in this article.

Notice the reference that this “dragon” intended to “devour” the male child, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This reveals another characteristic of the enemy. He is a “dragon” and he intends to “devour” and destroy anything and everything that comes from the Father. Starting in the Garden of Eden, he began as a serpent deceiving mankind to enable sin and death to enter our lives and the world as a whole. In the original Greek, the picture is of a moth eating away at a garment. If a garment is left unattended and a moth has access, it will slowly destroy the

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# The Battle is on

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garment. This “devouring” intention of the enemy is at work in our lives and all over the earth. Every one of us is at war against this “dragon” who wants to consume and destroy God’s plan for us.

We read a little more here in Revelation. It says,

**7. And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war,**

**8. And they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.**

**9. And the great serpent of old who is called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him.**

Revelation 12:7-9

Now we see a direct link between the devil in the Garden referred to as a serpent, and in the end times referred to as a dragon. It is an important

insight that the Greek word that is translated dragon is also a word that means serpent. Why is this important? Because for all of us, the enemy begins working as a serpent and, in the end, his intent is to act as a dragon and devour our lives.

In the church, we often work at taking on the dragon. Like in my opening story, the enemy rages with great intimidation and oppression. The war rages from within or from prevailing issues around us in the world, and we take on the big stuff that he throws at us. But here is the challenge: **We can’t take on the dragon without dealing with the serpent.** The enemy prevails again and again when we have not recognized the serpent’s thoughts (lies) at work in our minds.

It is easy to focus on the big things like rage, suicide, abuse, murder, adultery and on and on I could go. These are legitimate problems that exist as a result of the sin and death that entered our world. We can speak or preach against these sins and try to fix the problems. People spend significant time discussing the problems that are manifest in our world. We lift up sin and that it must be overcome or put aside in order to be able to walk with God. The fact is that the dragon is prevailing all around us on the earth. However, we must turn our attention away from the dragon with all his intimidating issues and look at the serpent. To defeat the dragon, we need to crush the head of the serpent. Instead of going after the sin issues, we need to uncover how the serpent enters our midst. This daily battle is won or lost based on what goes on in the mind of man.

For victory and advancement to be achieved, we need to look at this on two levels. The first is between man and God. The second is between man and man.

# The First Problem



## Sin's Barrier between Man and God

In the Garden, after sin and death entered, the first thing we see is mankind hiding from the presence of God. It says,

**8. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.**

Genesis 3:8

This immediate consequence of the entrance of sin is still affecting the church today. Sin causes shame and shame causes people to hide. This is a universal fact. Because of sin, man was immediately found hiding from the loving Creator, and even today, man still typically hides from the presence of God.

God Himself, because of His holiness, also had a problem. Metaphorically speaking, if the Father hugged His kids, they would be destroyed. God's justice demanded that sin be dealt with. This created a problem because man was left helpless and unable to do anything about it. Only God could fix this problem and the devil never dreamed what God would do for mankind.

As a prophetic picture, when the Father was establishing His covenant with man, He called Abram to follow Him to a new land. He spoke a covenant promise into his life and told him about a new seed that would come forth. Then He directed him to make preparations for a covenant ceremony. Abram did all that God said but could not foresee one amazing thing. After all the preparations made by a physical man (Abram) were complete, God removed Abram from the equation and prophetically declared that this

problem between man and God would be fixed by God Himself. God put Abram to sleep and Abram was replaced by another man. We read in Genesis about this account.

**17. And it came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.**

**18. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram.**

Genesis 15:17-18a

The symbolism is incredible. The "Smoking Oven" is in reference to the Father who is sitting on His throne. In Isaiah we see this in a vision that was written down. We read,

- 1. .... I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.**
- 2. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered His face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.**
- 3. And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts, The whole earth is full of His Glory'.**
- 4. And the foundations of the threshold trembled at the voice of Him who called out while the temple was filling with smoke.**

For another reference, read

Revelation 15:8 where we see again this revelation of the smoke coming from the presence and Glory of the Father.



In this prophetic picture, while Abram was asleep, The Father, revealed as the "Smoking Oven", entered between the sacrificed animals and established His portion of the covenant with man.

Then, in the same picture, we have the reference of a "Flaming Torch".

In Revelation we read,

**12. And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;**

**13. And in the middle of the lampstands one like a Son of Man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle.**

**14. And His head and His hair were like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;**

**15. And His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.**

**16. And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.**

Revelation 1: 12-17

Do you see the description of Jesus in this revelation? He had "eyes" that "were like a flame of fire". He also had "feet" that were like "bronze when it had been



caused to glow in a furnace". He had a "face" that "was like the sun shining". Jesus was seen ablaze! John the Baptist declared concerning the coming of Jesus' earthly ministry that He would baptize His disciples with "fire" (Matthew 3:11). John reveals that Jesus was, "The true Light which coming into the world enlightens every man" (John 1:9). John also said, "He was the lamp that was burning and was shining..." (John 5:35). Jesus said of Himself that He was "The Light of the World" (John 8:12).

The prophetic picture that was revealed while Abram slept introduced Jesus as the "Flaming Torch".

So what is the point? The point is that man could not fix the relationship problem with God. Therefore, the Father had man make all the earthly preparations for the covenant ceremony and then removed him from partaking in the ceremony. Instead, the Father and the Son prophetically walked through the covenant together. The Son was standing in Abram's place (and ours) in establishing the covenant with the Father. What we could not do because of our sin, the Father and Jesus were willing to do on our behalf. What is also amazing is that

if you look back at that passage it said, "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram" (Genesis 15:18). Though the covenant was established between the Father and the Son, it was prophetically declared that the covenant extended to mankind. Why, because Jesus, as a man, was standing in our place to ensure our successful fulfilment of the covenant's condition.

In His earthly ministry, Jesus' death and resurrection was the fulfilment of what was prophesied while Abram was asleep. A familiar verse, used often in evangelistic situations says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). The sending of His Son is the Father's love in action, rescuing mankind in the fulfilment of the prophetic ceremony of Genesis 15.

Following the fulfilment of Jesus' work, we have an incredible truth now at work in our lives.

In 2 Corinthians we read,

**21. He (the Father) made Him (the Son) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

This is the fruit of the covenant ceremony. Jesus replaced Abram and you and me, as the sinless man who fully

met the conditions of the Father. He did it all, and all we are to do is receive.

Then in Romans we read,

**15. But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the One Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.**

**17. For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

Romans 5:15, 17

We must grasp two key truths. *First*, while Jesus was, is and always will be God, He relinquished the use of His heavenly rights and privileges when He entered our world and lived as a man on the earth (see Philippians 2:5-8). He came to undo what Adam had done and to open a new door to the Father. He is the **One Man, Jesus Christ**, who stood in our place and fulfilled all aspects of man's side of the covenant with the Father.

*Second*, in His earthly assignment as a man, Jesus fulfilled the covenant condition perfectly and secured the provision for us to receive a gift. This gift is called, the "gift of righteousness". All who receive His payment on their behalf now have a new standing before the Father. To quote our Corinthians passage, we stand now before the Father as the "righteousness of God in Him" (Jesus Christ). Regardless of the struggle in our life, sin no longer has anything to say about our freedom to run into the presence of God.

From the Father's perspective, there is no need for inferiority as we approach Him. Jesus satisfied Him fully and opened the door for our access to Him.

As we reflect on the events in the Garden, what was the first thing that mankind did in response to God as a result of their sin? They hid from His presence. If you are anything like me, then we have continued to do this in our walk with the Father. For much of my adult life, every time I was aware of something wrong with me, instead of running into the face



of the Father, I moved away from pursuing or engaging His presence. I was ashamed of my sin and this moved me away from connecting with His presence. For many, many years I lived this way. Now, as I travel and talk with people, I find out that this is the case with many others as well.

One day, years ago when I was crying out for deliverance over a struggle in my life, I wanted to hear a word of breakthrough that would take sin away. Instead I received a word of breakthrough of a different kind. I heard the Father say, "Secrecy is the devil's playground". While I wanted sin gone, the Father wanted me to return to Him because, in His eyes, my sin was gone. My mind struggled with this immensely until I grasped the truth that I was still the "**righteousness of God**" in His eyes. The devil's deception had me believing that an open door to His presence was conditional to me living right (an impossibility for us all) and it was shame that kept me distant from Him. When we hide from God (and others) because of our shame, this alone keeps a huge door open to the enemy who is quick to take us into deeper pits of destruction.

I am convinced that the issue of hiding and "secrecy" is a weapon that the enemy uses to destroy many lives in our current hour.

Hiding is unnecessary because now we stand before the Father as the "**righteousness of God in Him**". You are "**righteous**" in His eyes right now. The brokenness between man and God is restored fully if you have received His incredible gift. The Father, revealed as a **Smoking Oven**, and the Son, revealed as a **Flaming Torch**, did all that was necessary for our restoration with the Godhead.

But what about our sin? Isn't it still important that it be dealt with? Absolutely, but not for the reason that most go after it.

The Word of God is clear. It says,

**23. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 6:23

The relationship between God and man has been restored for those who received His gift. However, sin's presence is still causing a "**wage**" called "**death**" that is destroying the lives of people today. Even for believers, brokenness prevails because of the influence of sin.

First, we must settle something. If in the eyes of God we are "**righteous**" now, then our current struggle with sin does not need to prevent us from pursuing an intimate relationship with Him and encountering His presence. But the influence of



sin that remains in us can destroy our earthly life. Our sin destroys marriages. Our sin destroys families. Our sin destroys friendships. Our sin causes havoc everywhere that it exists. But, our sin does not remove us from total and free access to the Father. It only does so in the typical believer because we have not been trained and "**renewed in our mind**" (Romans 12:1) to this wonderful truth. Our sin keeps us away from the Father because we have been religiously trained to stay away from Him until we clean up that sin.

What is so sad about this condition is that it is the presence of God Himself working in us that transforms us, and not ourselves (2 Corinthians 3:18). The very thing we need most when we are conscious of sin is to encounter His presence. Instead, we often pull away and hide in shame until we feel better about ourselves. This prevents His presence from meeting us on the deeper levels of need in our lives. We continue to religiously serve Him but with hindered freedom and abundant joy.

Instead of being like Adam and Eve and hiding from His presence, we are free to do the opposite because of what Jesus has done for us. We are free to run towards the presence of God and His manifestation in our lives.

In the book of Acts we see this exhortation. We read,

**19. Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.**

Acts 3:19





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The word **“repent”** in the Greek carries a simple message. It means, *‘Change your mind’*. There is no squalling and bawling, pleading or begging in this at all. No, simply change your mind with the realization that the Father is safe and **“return”** to Him with all your sin. In our returning, we are to turn to the **“presence”** of the Lord rather than run from it. This word **“presence”** in the Greek carries the meaning, *‘eye’* or *‘face’*. We are being told that when our mind changes and we realize what Jesus has done for us, we can press into the Father regardless of our current condition. This pressing into His *‘eye’* or *‘face’* is an intimate experience with Him. His presence manifested in our lives is what **“refreshes”**, restores and heals the brokenness of sin.

Don’t stay away from Him, press into Him continuously. What a freedom has been given to us as His kids.

Our sin matters big time on the earth. The serpent has gained access to our minds and it has resulted in death manifesting in various forms. The dragon then works until he is able to devour us and we never see the fullness of the Father’s intent fulfilled in our lives. But our struggle with sin does not need to prevent us from pressing in to the Father and His glorious presence.

So the reality is this. The Father is not our problem. He is satisfied with us because Jesus’ righteousness is now our righteousness. The enemy is no longer our problem because he is a completely defeated foe with nothing in himself to work with (Colossians 2:13-15). The problem that we are left with is that our mind has been tricked to believe lies (thoughts originated from the enemy) because of sin’s activity in our world and this affects how we relate with the world around us.

But the problem or struggle with sin is no longer a barrier between man and God for those who have received the **“gift of righteousness”** (Romans 5:17). Problem number one is now fixed!

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# The Second Problem

## Sin Working in Mankind on the Earth



Jesus said strong words to the religious leaders of His day. He said, **42. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him, whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and a father of lies.**

John 8:44

This is a sad passage as Jesus reveals that even the leaders of His day had been infiltrated by lies from the enemy (serpent) and in effect, had given him control of the religious affairs.

For years, I lived with anger that at times manifested as rage. I contributed to my marriage problems with this brokenness. Then, when I met the Father in a tangible living way, lies were exposed and I was a changed man. Even my wife April later said to me, "Steve, I no longer recognize you". The lies that ruled my brain came from hurtful past events in my life. I had no idea that they were there, and the dragon worked relentlessly to destroy my relationship with my wife and kids, and my calling. My problem was not with the dragon's intimidating influence. My problem was not with my anger or rage. My problem was that in ignorance I was believing the serpent's lies that gave him access in my life.

As a leader, I was trying to take down the influence of the dragon in my life,

and the world around me, while the serpent's lies were eating away at my inner life. It is impossible to defeat the dragon when the serpent's lies are destroying our lives.

Reflect on this example. If a person is raped or sexually abused, they may suffer some physical wounds.

Typically, these wounds will heal over time. However, much worse is what is injected in their mind as a result of the events that violated their life. Because of someone else's sin, "death" thoughts are established in the mind. Thoughts like, 'I am worthless, I am trash, I am of no value' are common for those who have been violated

in this way. Unless these thoughts are exposed, put to death and new, truth based thoughts replace them, they will affect these individuals the rest of their days on the earth.

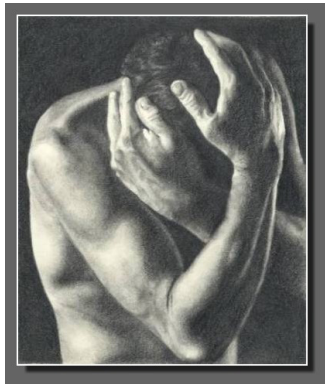
As horrendous as rape or sexual abuse is, the power of the enemy does not reside in any event that happens in our lives. His power is in what we end up believing because of that event. These lies bring death into our midst and will destroy the rest of our days on the earth. In this manner, the enemy remains as the "father" of these lies as long as they remain in our thoughts. Relationship after relationship will be sabotaged as these lies play out in everyday living.

Science is bringing fresh discovery to this as well. Only about 10% of our genetic expression is a result of the genes themselves. How our genes express themselves has

been scientifically proven to be approximately 90% the result of what we think. Right down to the cellular level of our human body, the place where our DNA exists, our thoughts determine how we physically develop. Our thoughts, good or bad, then physically manifest in our human body and physical world. So when thoughts of insecurity or inferiority take root, they actually direct our genes to develop and express themselves accordingly.

Our problem is not with the sins of the world. Our problem is not with the terrible things we see around us or even happen to us. The dragon is working to intimidate us and get us to focus on the terrible things that we see. The true problem is with the serpent's activity in our midst. I have tried in my own life and calling to take down the dragon in various ways. Why was it not working? Why was I not advancing? Because the serpent's lies in me made me powerless to the dragon's influence.

Many years ago at a very large conference, I spoke a word from the Lord that I had carried for three months and delivered it with great boldness on the scheduled night. As I left the platform and took my chair, I was attacked in my mind so severely that I literally wanted to die. For a few brief moments I stood in my dream of being used of God in this way and then I was paralyzed with fear, doubt and



suicidal thoughts. The Father sent an elder to me who got me back on my feet. After this, I prayed one of the most sincere prayers of my life.

I said, "Father, don't ever release me in this way again until You see that I won't be taken down by the enemy". I had the gifts in my life to see the dragon's influence removed. However, the serpent's lies in my life made me an easy target for his destruction.

The Father does not hold us back because He is against us. We are the **"righteousness of God in Him"** (see Romans 8:31-32). There are times however that He will hold us back because He sees that the enemy will destroy our lives or use us to negatively affect the lives of others. At times, we push ahead when the Father is not moving with us, and we find ourselves in a place not equipped and not able to stand when the dragon attacks.

Our problem is not the dragon and all that we see him doing in our land. Our problem is the serpent and the many lies (thoughts) that he has helped us believe.

Why did the Father speak the word "I am healing a nation" while in the midst of my conflict with April? First, because this is His nature. When we are in a mess, He speaks to us words of hope and future blessing. When we are overwhelmed with our struggle with sin, He speaks prophetic destiny over our lives. Since I was a teenager, I knew that I had a specific calling to the nation of Canada. He was calling it forth when all I could see was conflict and struggle. What a great God He is.

Second, the dragon was exposed in our lives and we were able to see how he was destroying us. God rescued



us in the moment, but turned our attention to the serpent who had control of areas in our minds. If these areas were not removed then we would only be destroyed at some point in our future.

This has now opened my eyes to the nation and nations of the earth. Much of our religious training has trained us to focus on things that are wrong. But I believe the Father is saying that it is time to declare the things that are right (we are righteous right now) and to lead people into His presence. The dragon is working in our land but his influence will be destroyed when the serpent's lies that are rooted in our minds are revealed. We don't have a problem with the intimidations of the dragon, we have a problem with the craftiness of the serpent.

As we press into the presence of God in our midst, He will expose the ways that the serpent has gained access and free us from the dragon's influence. The Father is poised to heal nations.

Is it possible that, as a result of the

serpent's craftiness, you are believing lies that you don't even know are there? What past events have trained you incorrectly and prevented you from walking in your prophetic destiny? The Father's presence will lovingly expose, heal and restore the broken areas where the serpent has influenced your mind and will conquer the dragon in your midst.

It is time. Press into the Father now. He is the safest One you could ever know and He will remove the serpent's influence from your life.

As He is healing you, He is:

### HEALING THE NATION!



Dr. Steve McEvoy has his doctorate in Leadership and Organizational Development.

- Through his apostolic teaching ministry, Steve assists leaders in the church in *“helping activate their people in fulfilling the calling of God on their lives”*.—————
- In the marketplace, he works alongside Government, Business and Education leaders and influences them in applying kingdom principles of leadership within their organizations. Steve *“assists marketplace leaders in creating a corporate ‘Who Am I Culture’”* in their current position of leadership.



To learn more about what Dr. Steve offers visit his websites at:

[www.stevemcevoyministries.org](http://www.stevemcevoyministries.org)

[www.bydesigngroup.ca](http://www.bydesigngroup.ca)

