

COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS

Isa 14:12 How art thou **fallen from heaven**, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou **cut down to the ground**, which didst **weaken the nations!**

Lucifer (Heb. meaning) “the bright one” fell from a prominent position in heaven. Any person who displays the character flaws of Satan will ultimately fall. Satan’s pride was the reason that God cast him out of heaven.

Luk 10:18 And he said unto them, “**I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**”

Satan fell from heaven’s heights to earth’s lowlands. In choosing the pathways of God, the believer is redirected in humility by the voice of God. Those like the prince of Tyre, (Eze 28:2) who love high natural positions that man offers may be tempted with the natural benefits that comes by manipulating the world’s system to satisfy self. Those who yield to the pride of life will receive God’s judgment for accepting it.

Eze 28:2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Because thine heart is lifted up**, and thou hast said, **I am a God, I sit in the seat of God**, in the midst of the seas; yet thou *art* a man, and not God, **though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:**

In Eze 28:1-17 Ezekial states that the prince of Tyrus (Tyre) was a gifted man; wiser than Daniel. (v.3). Known for his amazing prophetic accuracy and application, Ezekial seems to borrow many verses of scripture from other places in the Bible. Later in (v.13-17) it is as if he is describing Satan himself when in actual fact he is prophesying to the prince of Tyre. In (v.16) Ezekial speaks of merchandise and violence. It’s not wrong to be rich, but the manner in which the prince had gained his riches was sin. Satan will try to fill the heart of man with such self-gain thinking that all normal righteous behaviour will be forgotten in the frenzied pursuit of self-gain. God sent His judgment to Tyre, using war to destroy the riches of the prince’s self-gain.

Satan always looks for a lofty high position. (Isa 14:14) “above the clouds”

As joint-heirs with Christ all believers already have a high spiritual position, we need not seek anything higher that will rob us of our relationship with God. Once our relationship with Him is strong, God may call us higher in our walk of faith, as He did with Abram. (Gen 12:1-2)

Heb 1:8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 **Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;** therefore God, *even* thy God, **hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.**

When we live for God we need to love what Christ loves. Righteousness is the foundation for good behaviour and ultimately brings greater blessings. The first Psalm covers it all. It begins with “blessed is the man”. Note v.6

Psa 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

All believers have that Holy Spirit “God knowledge”. This wisdom is given for the purpose of ascending to the heavenly heights to apprehend a walk of faith. Our friends may not possess the Spirit comprehension to see as we see nor desire it and yet we must pursue the vision that God gives us. (Psa 23:1)

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Abraham was constantly looking for the New Jerusalem. This desire, born of the Spirit never left him. His higher vision was a faith reality and settled his spirit within. By faith he kept journeying on track in God’s timing to fulfil the higher vision of being a Father of a multitude.

Some people fall captive to “personal revolt”. This revolt is simply rebellion that has not yet been crucified. A spiritual crucifixion occurs when we purpose by obedience to God to apprehend a higher spiritual way of living. The Devil can lock some people into a personal prison and without God’s help there is no way out. (Isa 14:17) Any believer can strengthen his inner man with “heart purposing”. The inner man is weakened when purposing is lost. Daniel was one such courageous spiritual man who propelled himself forward by faith with “heart purposing” (Dan 1:8)

Just as there is war on earth there are wars going on in the heavens and every believer at some time will be tempted to yield to ruling evil spirits. Satan “the prince of deception” will deceive many. (Rev12: 9)

In Rev 12:7-9 Michael and the angels of heaven fought the devil and won.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ:** for

the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

The “power of Christ” is an ongoing strength in the believer. Angelic hosts will continue to win battles. We need not concern ourselves with any future battles in heaven. The Bible is clear. The devil lost. Some will encounter trials working for God, but where believers consider the love for Christ is greater than personal choices, and then our commitment will overcome difficulties. (v.11)

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and **they loved not their lives unto the death.**

Their powerful personal testimonies gave them overcoming abilities. This is as real as it will ever get for the faith filled believer. There’s no counterfeit way of life that can have this impact. The power of Christ was within. They happily and effectively served God with power.

Luk 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives**, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, "

The Christ within gives the “anointing”. The same Spirit that was on Christ is on us to bring salvation, healing and all manner of deliverance to captives.

Mat 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely ye have received, freely give.**

Christ freely gave His life in order that we may “freely give”. The disciples freely received of Christ’s anointing and were encouraged to minister that anointing freely.

He said, “freely ye have received, freely give.”

This continual free giving helps ministers combat the ever-present war with the flesh. (Rom 7:13-17) The old man that was controlled by the devil is at war with the free man that is now controlled by the Spirit.

Rom 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Gal 5:17 For **the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:** and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Paul gives the answer to the problem before talking about the reasons for the problem. "Walk in the Spirit". This is the answer to the counterfeit ways of Satan. Christ's anointed way (Spirit) overcomes Satan's way (evil fleshly spirit). When we yield to His Spirit we cannot fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

Joh 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Joh 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and **every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.**

Joh 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Joh 15:4 **Abide in me,** and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,** except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Joh 15:5 **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**

Joh 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Christ purges the fruit bearing vessels in order that they may bring forth more fruit. This process counters any possibility of flesh rising over spirit.